

*"Moon Knight fans are
in for one amazing ride."*

— ComicBook.com

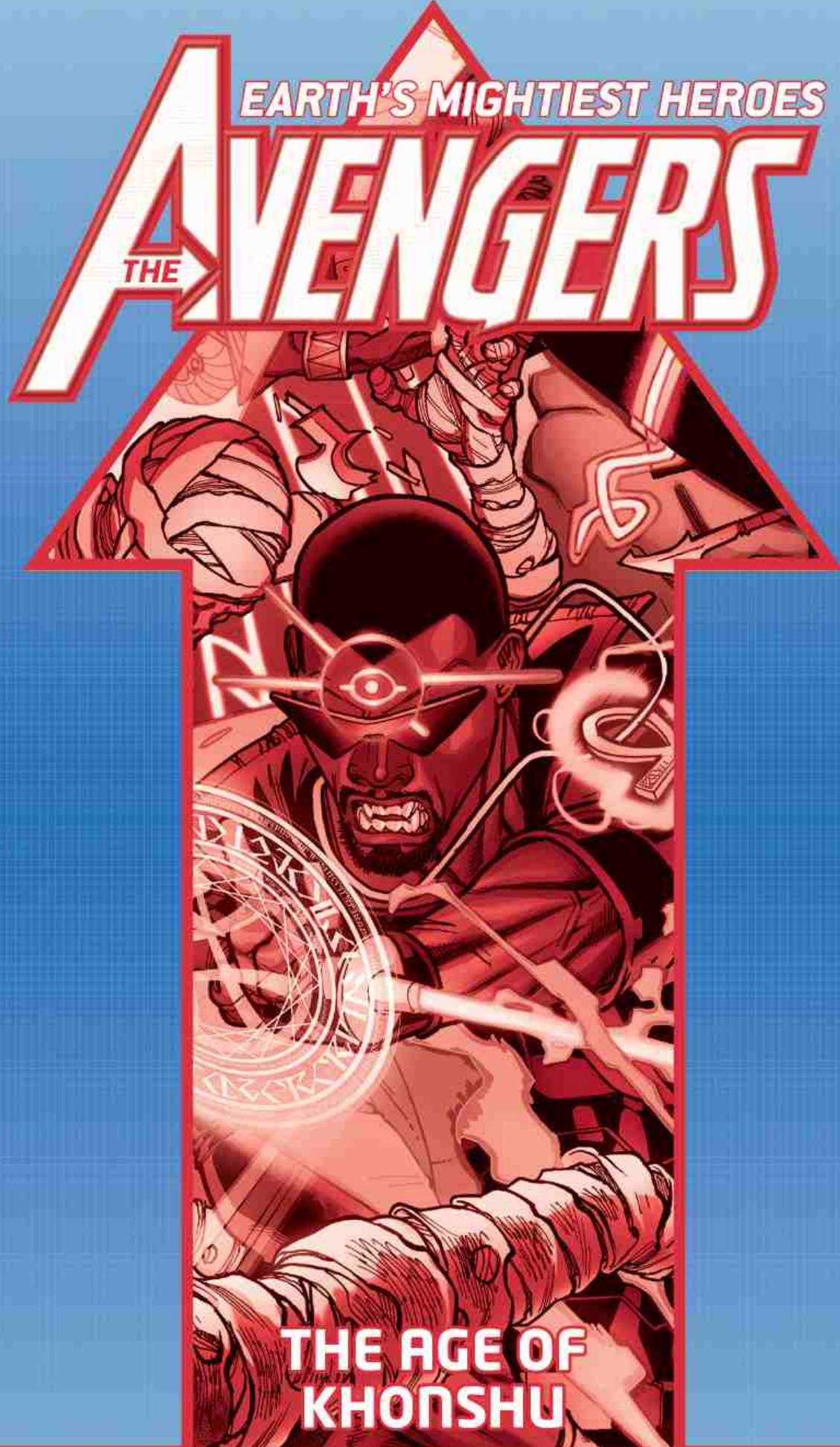
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES **THE AVENGERS**

AARON • MCGUINNESS • MANNA • GARRÓN



THE AGE OF KHONSHU

MARVEL



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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES **THE AVENGERS** THE AGE OF KHONSHU

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**31 THE TEMPTATION OF
ANTHONY STARK**





YEARS AGO.

MY FATHER
WAS A MAN
OF SCIENCE.

AND
SECRETS.



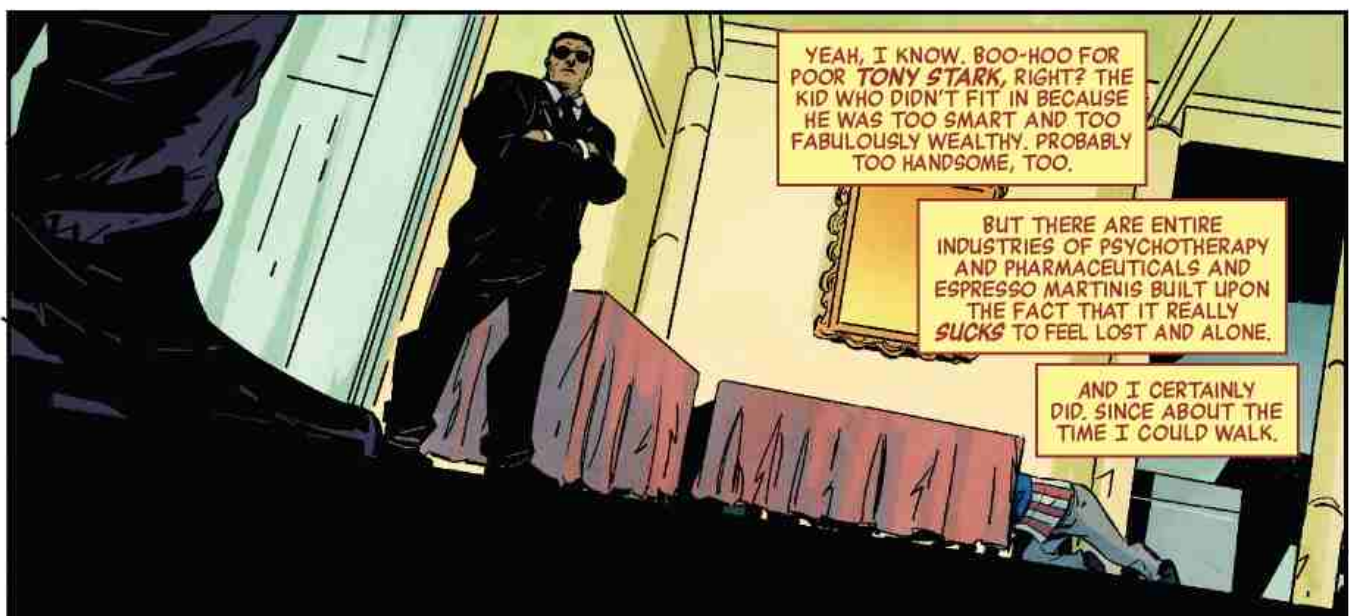
AND I WAS A VERY BRIGHT
KID WHO GOT **BORED** VERY
EASILY. AND WHO ALREADY
HAD THE COMPULSION TO GO
WHERE HE DIDN'T BELONG...



...BECAUSE I
DIDN'T SEEM TO
BELONG MUCH OF
ANYWHERE.

STILL KINDA DON'T,
I GUESS. IN OTHER
WORDS, I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN REALLY SUPER
GOOD AT GETTING INTO
LOTS OF TROUBLE.

X-RAY
CONTACTS
TEST IS
A GO.



YEAH, I KNOW. BOO-HOO FOR
POOR **TONY STARK**, RIGHT? THE
KID WHO DIDN'T FIT IN BECAUSE
HE WAS TOO SMART AND TOO
FABULOUSLY WEALTHY. PROBABLY
TOO HANDSOME, TOO.

BUT THERE ARE ENTIRE
INDUSTRIES OF PSYCHOTHERAPY
AND PHARMACEUTICALS AND
ESPRESSO MARTINIS BUILT UPON
THE FACT THAT IT REALLY
SUCKS TO FEEL LOST AND ALONE.

AND I CERTAINLY
DID. SINCE ABOUT THE
TIME I COULD WALK.



THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE AN OFFERING, COME FORWARD.

ONE THING THE MOVIES ALWAYS GET RIGHT: SUPER RICH PEOPLE LOVE TO DO SUPER RICH PEOPLE KINDA THINGS.



WHAT DO YOU SEEK FROM THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE? THE MASTER OF ALL HOUSES?

WE SEEK A GIFT.

THE GIFT OF TIME.

MY DAD THREW PARTIES THAT ARE STILL THE STUFF OF BACCHANALIAN LEGEND-- EVEN AMONG PEOPLE WHO ARE USED TO FLAUNTING ALL THE LAWS OF GOD AND MAN FOR EVERY BIRTHDAY, HALLOWEEN OR RANDOM SATURDAY NIGHT IN FEBRUARY.



AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER?

FLESH. FLESH AND BLOOD.

COUPLE THAT WITH MY DAD'S RELENTLESS COMMITMENT TO NETWORKING AND POWER-MONGERING ON THE GRANDEST/SHADIEST OF LEVELS...AND THE OLD MAN SOMETIMES MADE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS FOR HIMSELF.



THE MASTER ALREADY HAS THESE THINGS.

SOUL. THEN WE OFFER OUR SOULS.

WHOA.

AND I ONLY WISH I WAS USING THAT PHRASE FIGURATIVELY. GOD, THE THINGS I'VE SEEN. WHY COULDN'T I HAVE JUST PLAYED MORE VIDEO GAMES?



AH, YES.
FOR THAT...THE
MASTER MIGHT BE
WILLING TO
BARTER.

FOR INSTANCE, THERE
WAS THE TIME WHEN I
WAS NINE AND WANTED TO
TRY OUT SOME NEW X-RAY
CONTACTS I'D DESIGNED
DURING A PARTICULARLY
CREEPY PARTY MY DAD
WAS THROWING.

WHAT
SAY YOU,
MASTER?



THE
MASTER
SAYS...

HEY!

MOSTLY ALL I SAW WERE SOME
POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THEIR
UNDERWEAR. SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE
I'D WIND UP PUNCHING IN THE FACE
WITH IRON GAUNTLETS ONE DAY.

BUT THERE WAS
SOMETHING ELSE, TOO.



WHAT THE HELL'S
THIS KID DOING
HERE?

SOMETHING THAT HAUNTED ME IN
MY DREAMS UNTIL I WAS ABLE
TO START DRINKING THEM AWAY.



THAT WAS THE
NIGHT I SAW THE
FACE OF THE DEVIL.

AAAAAGGGHHH!

OR AT LEAST...
I THINK I DID.
HARD TO SAY. IT
WAS A LOOOOONG
TIME AGO.

**ONE MILLION
YEARS AGO.**



FEELS LONGER
THAN EVER THESE
DAYS. MAYBE
BECAUSE IT *IS*.

REMEMBER WHAT I
SAID ABOUT BEING
GOOD AT GETTING
INTO TROUBLE?

HE SEND
YOU? OR ARE
YOU JUST
HUNGRY?

DOESN'T
REALLY
MATTER, I
GUESS.



YEAH, SOME
THINGS NEVER
CHANGE.

I'LL ASK
HIM MYSELF
WHEN HE COMES
AROUND.



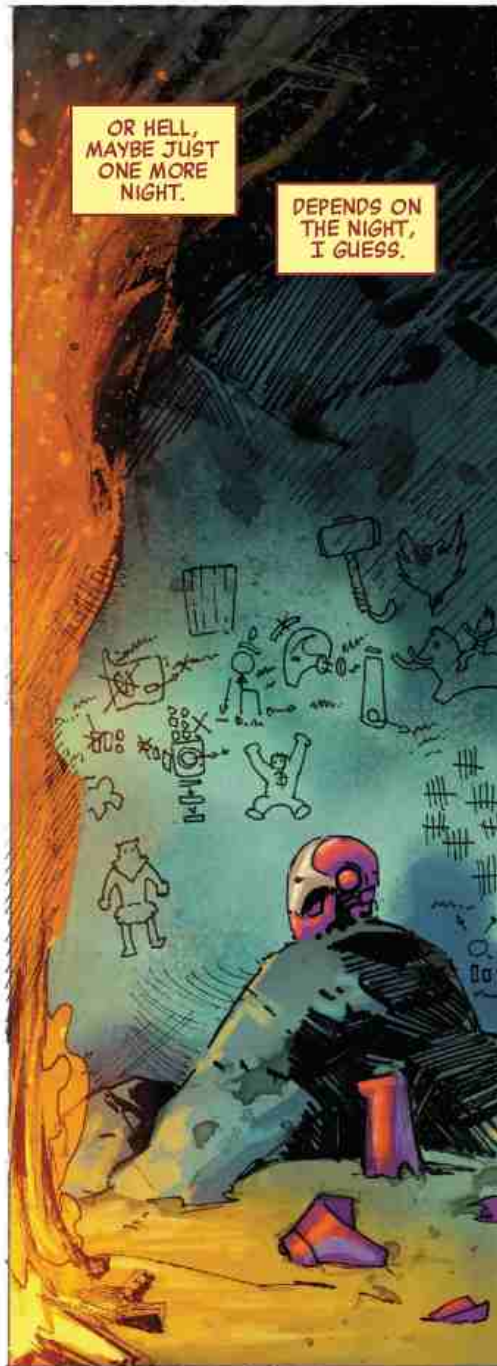


THAT WAS A WASTE
OF VIBRANIUM FUEL.
WHAT, DO I THINK
I'M SENDING HIM A
MESSAGE? A WARNING?

OR MAYBE I'M
THE ONE WHO'S
JUST HUNGRY.



THERE'S NO MORE
VIBRANIUM LEFT IN THE
CAVE. I'VE GOT ENOUGH
TO POWER ME THROUGH
A FEW MORE NIGHTS.



OR HELL,
MAYBE JUST
ONE MORE
NIGHT.

DEPENDS ON
THE NIGHT,
I GUESS.



DEPENDS ON
WHEN THE DEVIL
COMES BY FOR
ANOTHER VISIT.

THIS ALL STARTED
NORMALLY ENOUGH.

WEEKS EARLIER.

WELL, NORMAL
IF YOU'RE AN
AVENGER.

GAAAGH!

A CAVE WAS UNCOVERED DURING
THE WAR OF THE REALMS. A
CAVE WITH A FOSSILIZED
VERSION OF MY HEAD INSIDE IT.

WHEN I INVESTIGATED
SAID CAVE, AN UNKNOWN
ENERGY SOURCE
SUDDENLY BACK TO THE
FUTURE ME.

GLUGH!

I GOT SENT BACK IN
TIME. I'M GUESSING A
MILLION YEARS, GIVE OR
TAKE A FEW MILLENNIA.

NEXT THING I KNOW,
I'M BEING PUMMELED
BY SOME SORT OF...
CAVEMAN AVENGERS.

AARRRGH!

COME
ON!



LIKE I SAID,
NORMAL ENOUGH.
BUT THEN THINGS
GOT WEIRD.

LOOK,
GHOST RIDER
SNUFFALUFFAGUS
AND BROCK LESNAR
STARBRAND ARE
ONE THING, BUT NO
WAY AM I GETTING
SLAPPED AROUND
BY THOR'S
DADDY!

YOU PEOPLE
ARE MAKING A
MISTAKE. I KNOW I
SEEM ALL FRIGHTFULLY
SMART AND FUTURISTIC,
AND... I AM, BUT I'M
NOT THE BAD GUY
HERE! I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE HERE...



WHOA,
YOU GUYS HAVE
YOUR OWN
PHOENIX.

DO THE
X-MEN KNOW
ABOUT
THIS?

ANTHONY
STARK.



YOU HAVE
BEEN CALLED HERE
FOR A REASON, BUT
NOT BY US.

LADY, I DON'T
LIKE YOU BEING
INSIDE MY HEAD. I
DON'T ALWAYS LIKE
ME BEING IN
THERE.

WE CAN BE
OF NO AID TO
YOU. THE TRIALS
THAT ARE TO COME
MUST BE FACED
ALONE.

JUST TRY TO
REMEMBER, MAN
OF IRON...



REMEMBER
THE FACE OF
THE DEVIL.

GAAAGH!

YOU CAN NEVER TRUST THOSE
PHOENIXES, CAN YOU? SHE
SUCKER PUNCHED ME AND SENT
ME FLYING FOR MILES.



MY ARMOR WAS ALREADY
DAMAGED FROM THE FIGHT. THE
LANDING SURE DIDN'T HELP.



THIS IS LIKE A BAD
JOKE. IRON MAN,
TRAPPED IN THE
STONE AGE.

UUGH. RUN
DIAGNOSTIC.

POWER INSUFFICIENT.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME
TO GUIDE YOU TO THE
NEAREST STARK TECH
CHARGING STATION?

DON'T
THINK THAT'LL
BE NECESSARY.
SOMETHING TELLS
ME...WE'RE
ALREADY HOME.



EXCEPT I HAVEN'T
LAUGHED ONCE.

CAVES.
WHY'S IT
ALWAYS
HAVE TO BE
CAVES?

NOT SINCE
THAT FIRST
NIGHT.

DIVERT ALL
POWER TO SCANS.
SEARCH FOR VIBRANIUM,
URANIUM, ANYTHING WE
CAN USE AS A FUEL
SOURCE.

SEARCHING.

FIRST I'LL FIX THE
ARMOR, THEN I CAN FIND
A TIME MACHINE. THERE'S
ALWAYS ONE LYING
AROUND SOMEWHERE.

'TIL THEN, JUST
HAVE TO BE CAREFUL
NOT TO STEP ON ANY
BUTTERFLIES OR GET
KILLED BY--

UNG.

WHOA.
THAT'S CLOSE
ENOUGH.

UNGA.

UMM.
HI.

IS THAT...
SOME KINDA
CAVE GROG?

YEAH, THAT'S
CAVE GROG, I
CAN SMELL IT
FROM HERE.

UNGA.

WOW, GUESS I'M
SO IMPRESSIVE I'VE
MADE THE LOCALS
WORSHIP ME WITHOUT
EVEN TRYING.

SORRY,
CAVE LADY, BUT I
WOULDN'T MAKE A VERY
GOOD GOD. YOU SHOULD
PROBABLY GET BACK
TO YOUR...



...PEOPLE.

THEY CAME
EVERY NIGHT
FOR A WEEK.

AND I TURNED
THEM AWAY
EVERY TIME.

EVEN AS
THE NIGHTS GOT
COLDER. LONELIER.
THIRSTIER.

ON THE EIGHTH DAY,
THERE WAS STILL AN
OFFERING OF WINE, BUT
THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF
BOWING CAVE WOMEN...



...THERE WERE
ROCKS. AND
BIG CLUBS.

AND SOME
SERIOUSLY
ANGRY
ANCESTORS.

THOSE GUYS
CAME EVERY
NIGHT FOR
THREE WEEKS.

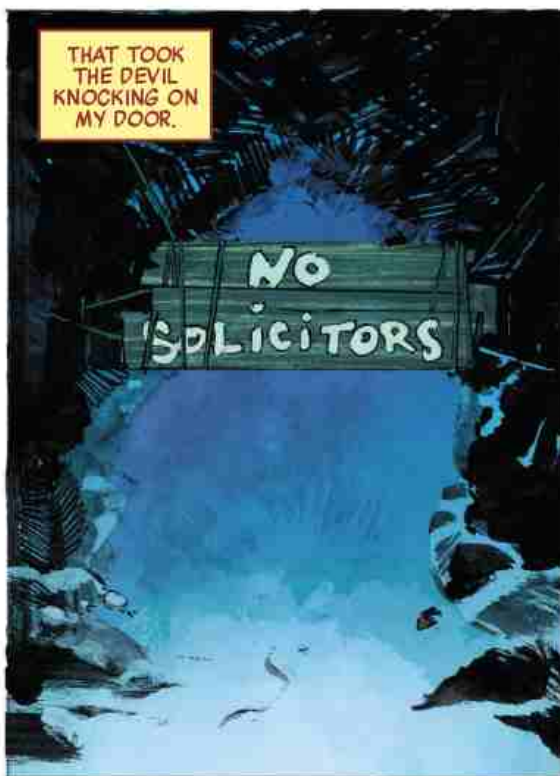
I ALWAYS SENT
THEM AWAY,
WOUNDED, BROKEN,
THEIR CAVE GROG
SPILLED.

BUT THEY KEPT
COMING BACK,
ANGRIER THAN EVER,
TRYING TO FORCE ME
TO HAVE A DRINK.

AND FOR SUCH
A SMART GUY,
I STILL DIDN'T
GET IT.

I STILL
DIDN'T SEE
WHAT THIS
WAS.





THAT TOOK
THE DEVIL
KNOCKING ON
MY DOOR.



THIS IS ABOUT
THE LAST OF THE
VIBRANIUM IN THE
CAVE.

IS THIS WHY
THE NATIVES KEEP
COMING TO THIS PLACE?
WHY THEY THINK I'M
A GOD OR SOME
KIND OF...



SOME CRAZY
MAN TALKING TO
HIMSELF ALONE IN
A CAVE. STORY
OF MY LIFE.

GOD, I NEVER
THOUGHT I COULD
GET BORED WITH MY
OWN COMPANY...BUT
I THINK I ACTUALLY
MISS THE
AVENGERS.

DON'T
TELL THEM I
SAID THAT,
OKAY?



YOUR
SECRETS ARE
SAFE WITH ME,
STARK.





SORRY, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I TRADED THAT FOR A DAIQUIRI IN 1998. I COULD GIVE YOU A GOOD DEAL ON A GALLBLADDER, THOUGH.

TELL ME, DO YOU KNOW HOW SOMEONE BECOMES THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE WORLD?



WELL, I KNOW HOW I DID IT.

NO, YOU DON'T. YOU DON'T KNOW THE PRICE THAT WAS PAID.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT COST HOWARD STARK.



HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT NAME? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

YOU BELONG TO ME, LITTLE STARK. NO MATTER THE ERA.

WHY DO YOU THINK HOWARD ADOPTED YOU? YOU WERE THE PRICE HE HAD TO PAY.



LOOK INTO MY EYES, TONY.

YOU KNOW ME.

I'M YOUR REAL FA--



RRRRGHH!

I COULD'VE HIT IT WITH A REPULSOR BLAST.

BUT I WANTED TO KILL SOMETHING WITH MY OWN HANDS.

IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO REALIZE...



...THAT WAS YET ANOTHER TEMPTATION.



I HAVEN'T BEEN VISITED SINCE.



EXCEPT BY HUNGER AND COLD AND FRUSTRATION. SOME BIG CATS.

MAYBE A BIT OF MADNESS. HARD TO TELL.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE SNAKE KNOWS SOMETHING.

(OKAY, YEAH, DEFINITELY SOME MADNESS.)

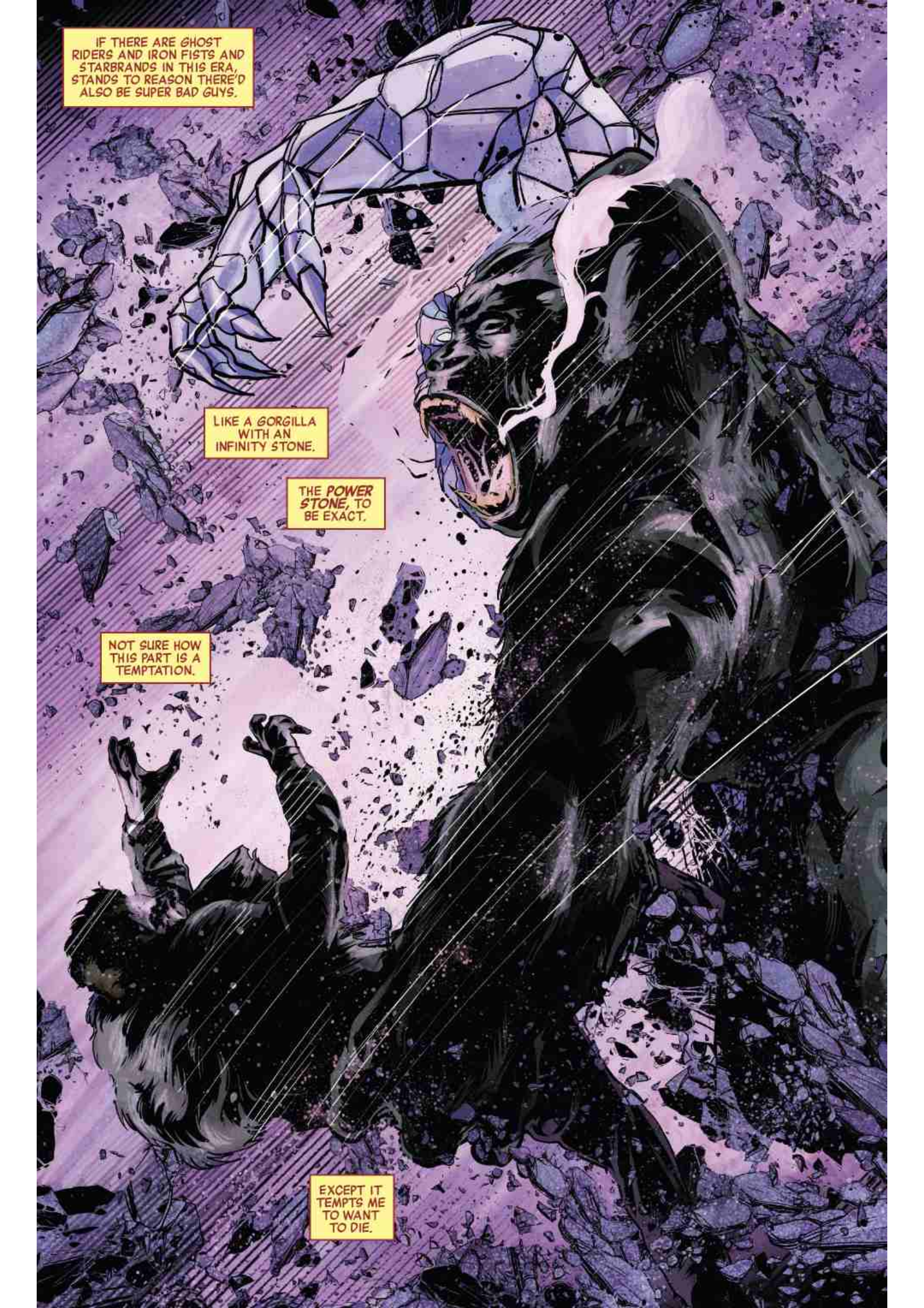


THE SNAKE BROUGHT ME HERE, AND IT KNOWS HOW TO GET ME HOME. SO I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL IT OUT. KILLING EVERY SNAKE I CAN FIND.

IT FINALLY WORKS.



ONLY THIS TIME... THE BASTARD DOESN'T SEND A SNAKE.



IF THERE ARE GHOST
RIDERS AND IRON FISTS AND
STARBRANDS IN THIS ERA,
STANDS TO REASON THERE'D
ALSO BE SUPER BAD GUYS.

LIKE A GORGILLA
WITH AN
INFINITY STONE.

THE POWER
STONE, TO
BE EXACT.

NOT SURE HOW
THIS PART IS A
TEMPTATION.

EXCEPT IT
TEMPTS ME
TO WANT
TO DIE.



GRAPE APE
LEAVES ME
FOR DEAD.

HE MIGHT
BE RIGHT.



ARMOR IS COMPLETELY
TRASHED NOW. THERE'S
NO WAY I CAN HOPE TO
FIX THIS. NOT IN A CAVE
IN THE STONE AGE.



AND THIS ISN'T
THE END. I
KNOW HE'S
STILL COMING.



I KNOW THE DEVIL
WILL BE BACK. FOR ONE
LAST TEMPTATION.

AND IF YOU CAN'T
BEAT 'EM, WELL,
YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY SAY...



LUCKILY, I'VE NEVER GIVEN A DAMN WHAT PEOPLE SAY.

OKAY. SO YOUR FANCY ARMOR IS COMPLETELY RUINED.

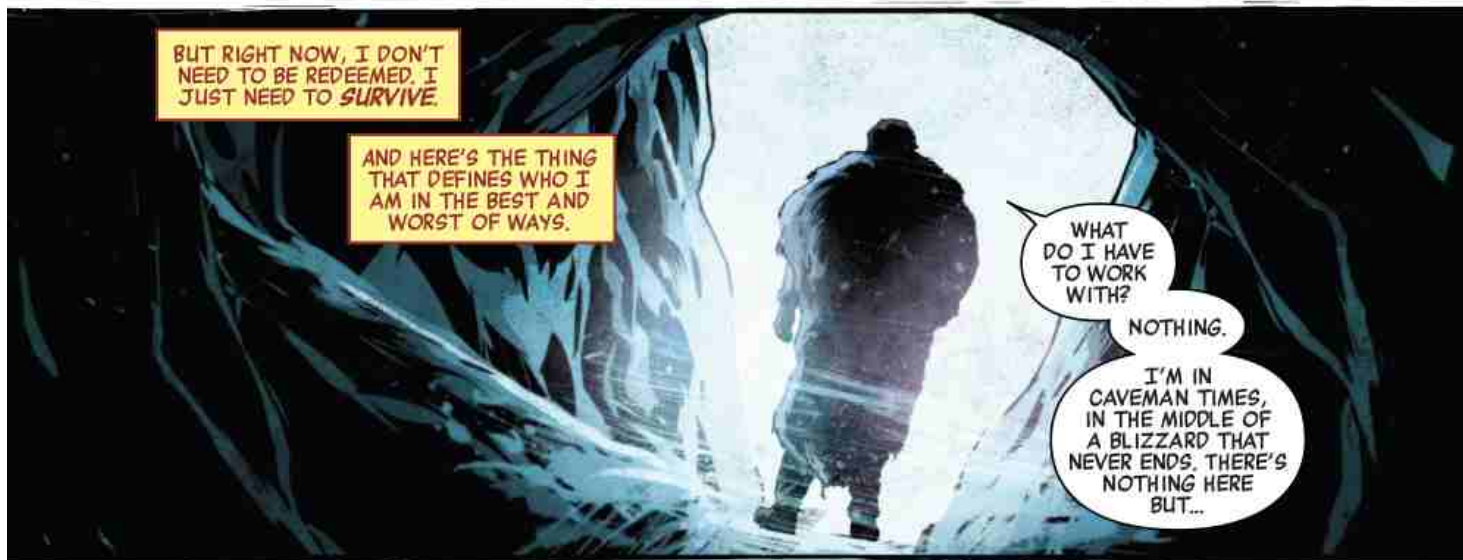
BUT IRON MAN WAS NEVER THE WEAPON.



I AM.

STILL SOME POWER LEFT IN THE VIBRANIUM BATTERIES. JUST NEED A WAY TO HOUSE IT. CHANNEL IT.

IT'S ONE OF MY ONLY REDEEMING QUALITIES.



BUT RIGHT NOW, I DON'T NEED TO BE REDEEMED. I JUST NEED TO *SURVIVE*.

AND HERE'S THE THING THAT DEFINES WHO I AM IN THE BEST AND WORST OF WAYS.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO WORK WITH?

NOTHING.

I'M IN CAVEMAN TIMES, IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLIZZARD THAT NEVER ENDS. THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT...



TONY STARK DOES HIS BEST WORK... WHEN HE'S WORKING TO *NOT* DIE.

NOTHING BUT AN *ICE* AGE.

GUESS THAT'LL HAVE TO DO.



PRETTY SURE I
BECAME AN ATHEIST
IN THE WOMB.



THOR MIGHT TELL YOU IT'S BECAUSE I
REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN ANYTHING GREATER
THAN MYSELF--EVEN WHEN IT'S STANDING
RIGHT NEXT TO ME, CRACKLING WITH
LIGHTNING AND SMELLING OF MEAD.



AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S
TRUE WHEN IT COMES
TO FAIRY GODFATHERS
IN THE SKY.

BUT THE DEVIL IS A WHOLE
DIFFERENT MATTER. HIM, I'VE
ALWAYS BELIEVED IN. EVER
SINCE HE WAS THE GUEST OF
HONOR AT MY DAD'S PARTY.

ZOMBIE
SNAKES? YOU'RE
COMING HERE TO TRY
TO BUY THE BOUGIEST
SOUL ON THE PLANET,
AND YOU THINK **ZOMBIE
SNAKES** ARE GONNA
SEAL THE DEAL
FOR YOU?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY
I'VE ALWAYS BUILT AN
ARMOR BETWEEN ME
AND THE WORLD.

AN ARMOR OF
WIT. OF IRON.
OF A BOTTLE.

I HATE TO
SAY, "DON'T YOU
KNOW WHO I AM,"
BUT SERIOUSLY,
DON'T YOU KNOW
WHO THE STARK
I AM?

IF NOT,
PLEASE
ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE
MYSELF.

OF WHATEVER
THE HELL
WAS HANDY.

I AM...
ICE AGE
MAN.

BECAUSE DEEP
DOWN, I SUPPOSE
I'VE ALWAYS
KNOWN...

...THAT I'D SOMEDAY BE
FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE
DEVIL AGAIN. AND THIS TIME,
THERE'D BE NO RUNNING.

I BELIEVE
I KNOW
YOU WELL
ENOUGH.

HELLO,
TONY.





HELLO,
SON.

I WAS 9 YEARS
OLD WHEN I SAW
THE FACE OF
THE DEVIL.

THOUGH IN TRUTH,
I'D SEEN IT MANY
TIMES BEFORE.

AAAAAGGGHHH!

YOU'RE A
BIT EARLY,
BOY.



I'D JUST NEVER SEEN
IT FOR WHAT IT WAS.

COME BACK
WHEN YOU'RE
OLDER AND HAVE
SOMETHING WORTH
BARTERING.

FOR YOUR
SOUL'S ALREADY
BEEN SOLD, TONY
STARK.

X-RAY CONTACTS.
I KNEW ALL ALONG
IT WAS YOU, DAD.



BUT THAT SOMEHOW
ONLY MADE IT SCARIER.

FINDING OUT YOUR
"FATHER" IS THE HEAD
OF SOME KINDA SECRET
SATANIC MILLIONAIRES
CLUB. I SUPPOSE THAT'S
PART OF GROWING UP.

MAYBE SOMEDAY
I'LL FIGURE OUT
HOW TO DO THAT.

HOWARD?
NO. YOU...
YOU'RE NOT...



YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK WITH HOT
CAVEWOMEN AND WINE. BELIEVE
ME, THIS ISN'T THE WAY
TO TEMPT ME.

UNLESS
YOU WERE
TEMPTING ME TO
WANT TO KILL
YOU.

IT'S NOT HOWARD.
IT CAN'T BE. HE'S
DEAD. AND HE WON'T
EVEN BE BORN FOR A
MILLION YEARS.

WHO
ARE YOU?

I'M YOUR
FATHER.

NO MORE
LIES! YOU'RE
NOT HOWARD
STARK!

WELL, I
NEVER SAID
I WAS.

THOUGH
HE IS AN OLD
FRIEND.

I JUST
SAID I WAS
YOUR FATHER, TONY.
WOULD I LIE ABOUT
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?

GO AHEAD,
LOOK IN MY
EYES.

CAN'T
YOU SEE THE
RESEMBLANCE?



MEPHISTO, ONE OF THE KINGS OF HELL. BUT HOW DOES A DEVIL FROM ONE MILLION B.C. KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME AND MY...

AH, IT'S NOT JUST THE DEVIL. IT'S THE DEVIL WITH A TIME STONE.

I SPOKE THE TRUTH WITH YOUR FATHER'S TONGUE, TONY. HE PROMISED YOU TO ME.

OR WELL, HE WILL. SOMEDAY MANY MANY YEARS FROM NOW. I'VE SEEN IT IN THE STONE.

AND DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE EASIER FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IF I JUST COLLECTED ON IT NOW?

GAAAGGH!

BOW TO ME, TONY STARK. AND WE'LL REWRITE THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD TOGETHER, YOU AND I.

BECOME MY DEVIL IN IRON.



HE'S LOSING. THAT
COULD CHANGE
ALL OF HUMAN
HISTORY.

I DON'T KNOW,
THIS GUY SEEMS LIKE A
JERK. ARE WE SURE IT'S A BAD
IDEA IF HE NEVER EXISTED?

THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A
TONY STARK. IN EVERY
EXISTENCE.

AND WE WILL NEED
THEM ALL. ESPECIALLY
THIS ONE.

THEN WHAT
DO WE DO?
HOW DO WE
HELP HIM?

WE CANNOT.
THE MAN OF IRON
MUST WIN THIS
BATTLE...

"...ALONE."

THE MORE
VIBRANIUM POWER
I USE, THE
FASTER THE ICE
ARMOR MELTS.

HAVE TO TAKE MY
SHOT NOW. WITH
EVERYTHING I'VE
GOT LEFT.

YOU'RE A
MAN OF REASON,
STARK, AND I'VE MADE
YOU A REASONABLE
PROPOSAL.

SAVE
YOURSELF THE
TROUBLE OF EVER
BEING BORN. I WILL
WRITE YOU AN
ENTIRELY NEW
LIFE.

ONE WITHOUT
HOWARD. WITHOUT
A HEART FULL OF
SHRAPNEL. WITHOUT
THE DEMON IN THE
BOTTLE.

I WILL MAKE
YOU EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST HERO,
COMPLETE AND
UNABRIDGED.

TONY
STARK. THE
ONE AND ONLY
AVENGER.

I'VE GOT
A BETTER IDEA.
AND I'LL TELL
YOU ALL
ABOUT IT...



...IN A
MILLION
YEARS!

I MAY BE AN ATHEIST,
BUT I HAVE LEARNED A
THING OR TWO FROM THE
GODS OVER THE YEARS.

THOR TAUGHT ME THAT
WHEN IN DOUBT...ALWAYS
PUNCH THE SHINY THING.

SO I SHOOT EVERY LAST
OUNCE OF MY POWER AT
THE TIME STONE.



AND
THINK WARM
THOUGHTS OF
HOME.

HA, WHERE
DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE RUNNING
TO, STARK?
THERE'S NOWHERE
OUTSIDE MY
DOMAIN.



NOWHERE.
AND NO
WHEN.

BUT IT'S NOT *HOME*
I SEE AS MY ATOMS
ARE TORN APART.

IT'S *HORRORS*.

FROM THE PAST.
THE FUTURE. FROM A
TIME THAT'S MEANT
TO BE MY OWN, BUT
THAT... I SHUDDER
TO RECOGNIZE.

THERE'S NO
MORE WAKANDA.
ASGARD IS A
LOST LEGEND.

AND STEVE...
WHY IS STEVE
SHOOTING GREEN
DRUGS INTO HIS
EYEBALL?

WHY IS THE FLESH
MELTING OFF
CAROL'S FACE?

AND WHAT IN THE
NAME OF ALL THAT'S
HOLY HAPPENED TO
THE THING?

MAYBE I SHOULD
ASK THE OLD
WOLVERINE
WHO'S ON FIRE.

OR THE
GIRLS WITH
HAMMERS.

OR THE CREEPY
STARBRAND
BABY.

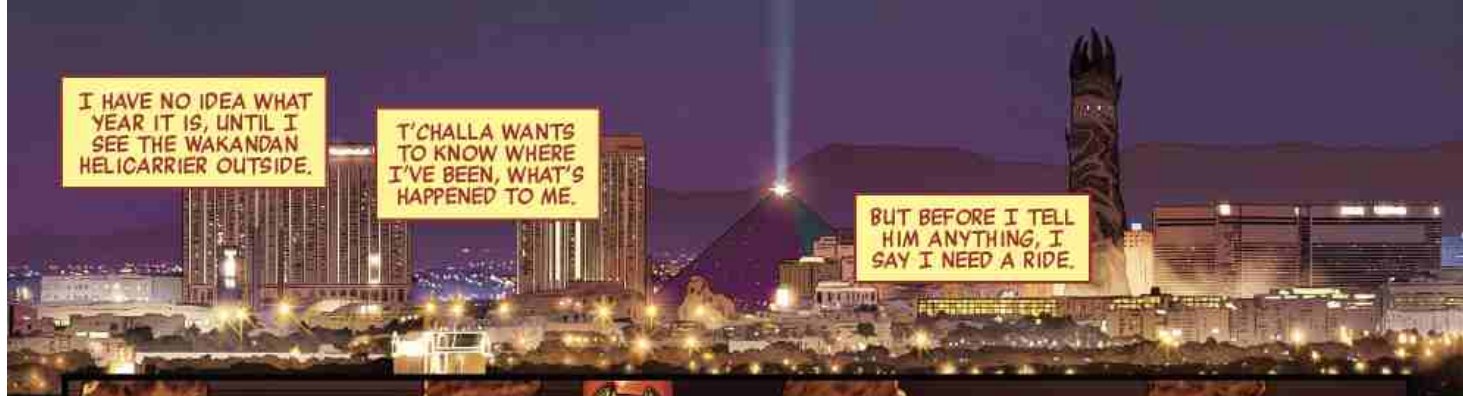
OR THE NEW
PHOENIX. WAIT, ARE
THEY NEW? I THINK
I KNOW THEM.

BUT INSTEAD I'M JUST
STARING AT MY OWN
FACE, DRUNK OUT OF MY
GOURD, WITH ANTS
POURING OUT OF MY
MOUTH AS I SCREAM.

MY EYES ARE WIDE,
AND REFLECTED IN
THEM... IS AN
INFINITY OF DEVILS.

BUT NOT A
SINGLE DAMN
AVENGER.

I'M STILL
SCREAMING WHEN
BLACK PANTHER
FINDS ME ALONE
IN THE CAVE.



I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YEAR IT IS, UNTIL I SEE THE WAKANDAN HELICARRIER OUTSIDE.

T'CHALLA WANTS TO KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME.

BUT BEFORE I TELL HIM ANYTHING, I SAY I NEED A RIDE.



AND I GO STRAIGHT TO VEGAS.

MEPHISTO!



AH, HELLO, TONY. BEEN IN ANY GOOD GAYES LATELY?

DOCTOR STRANGE TOLD ME WHERE TO FIND YOU. TOLD ME YOU'VE BEEN LOCKED UP HERE EVER SINCE YOU LOST THE THRONE OF HELL.



I WANTED TO SEE YOU, FACE-TO-FACE.

IT'S BEEN A MILLION YEARS NOW, HASN'T IT? BUT THE OFFER IS MOST ASSUREDLY STILL GOOD. DOES THIS MEAN YOU'VE GOT AN ANSWER TO MY PROPOSAL?

YOU BET I DO.



KISS MY IRON ASS.



"HE KNOWS WHAT
YOU'RE UP TO
NOW. OR AT LEAST
HE HAS AN IDEA."



WHY WOULD
YOU DO THAT?
SEND HIM BACK IN
TIME? I COULD'VE TOLD
YOU THERE WAS NEVER
ANY CHANCE HE'D SELL
OUT TO YOU. HE'S
FAR TOO STUPID
FOR THAT.

I NEVER
EXPECTED HE
WOULD MAKE A
DEAL. BUT NOT ALL
TEMPTATIONS ARE
THE SAME.



I HAVE SOWN
DOUBT AND FEAR
IN TONY STARK. AND
THAT WILL RIPPLE
OUTWARD, THROUGH
THE PINK MEMBRANES
THAT SEPARATE THE
WORLDS.

AND ALL
THE TONY
STARKS WILL FEEL
IT, WHETHER
THEY KNOW
IT OR NOT.

SO OUR
ASSAULT HAS
ALREADY BEGUN.
BECAUSE WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO FIGHT THEM
ALL BEFORE IT'S
THROUGH.



EVERY TONY
EVER. THERE
MUST ALWAYS BE
AN IRON MAN.
I'M AFRAID.

WELL THEN,
I SUPPOSE IT'S A
GOOD THING YOU'VE
GOT HIS GREATEST
ENEMY BY YOUR
SIDE.

NO ONE
KNOWS MY
BOY LIKE
I DO.

HOW
TO BUILD
HIM.

AND HOW
TO BREAK
HIM.

YES. LET'S
HEAR MORE ABOUT
THAT, MY DEAR
HOWARD.

YES,
MASTER. I
AM YOURS TO
COMMAND.

ALL HAIL
MEPHISTO.



32 EARTH'S MIGHTIEST VILLAINS



THE DAY HE WAS **CROWNED**,
THE CONCH HORNS OF THE
ROYAL AQUA-ORCHESTRA
ECHOED FOR FATHOMS...

...FROM THE TEEMING REEF
GARDENS OF **KAMUU** TO
THE DEEPWATER CITADELS
OF OLD **THAKORR**...

...INTONING HOLY SEA
SHANTIES OLDER THAN
ANYONE WHO STILL SWAM...

...**SALT HYMNS** SO ANCIENT
IT WAS SAID THE FIRST
SUB-MARINERS LEARNED THEM
FROM THE **LEVIATHANS**.



THE **ABBOT OF THE ABYSS** AND
HIS RECLUSIVE **OCTOMONKS**
CAME FROM THEIR INK-BLACK
ABBAY HIDDEN DEEP IN THE
UNDER-MOUNTAINS OF NEPTUNE TO
CHANT THEIR KRAKEN DIRGES AND
BESTOW THEIR BRINY BLESSINGS.

ALL THE SMILING BLUE CHILDREN
RACED SEA PONIES THROUGH THE
HALLS OF THE **CORAL CASTLE**,
FILLING THE ENTIRE OCEAN WITH
THEIR LAUGHTER.

THE **ARMY** WAS STRONG AND PROUD,
ITS RANKS SWELLED WITH SHARK
TROOPERS, BLOWFISH ARCHERS AND
GIANT CRAB ARTILLERY.

THE GREAT **KELP FORESTS**
AND **ALGAE ORCHARDS**
WERE PLENTIFUL.

EVERY WOMAN BENEATH
THE WAVES WANTED TO
SHARE HIS WATERY BED
AND BEAR HIS CHILDREN.

IT WAS A GOOD DAY
TO BE THE
KING OF ATLANTIS.



BUT THAT WAS
MANY TIDES AGO.

NOW THE KELP FORESTS
ARE *SHRINKING* AND THE
REEF GARDENS ARE TURNING
BROWN AND FALLOW.

THE CHILDREN OF
ATLANTIS COWER
IN OIL-DRENCHED
SQUALOR.

THE UNDERSEA ARMY'S RANKS ARE
AS MEAGER AS ITS PRIDE, WHILE
THE KINGDOM'S BOUNDARIES ARE
EVER MORE THREATENED BY
BOTTOM-DWELLING BARBARIANS
AND *LEMURIAN MER-PIRATES*.

NOT TO MENTION THE UNRELENTING
AGGRESSION OF THE AIR-GUZZLING
INVADERS FROM *ABOVE*, LIKE THE
CORPORATE MARAUDERS FROM THE
ROXXON ENERGY CORPORATION.

WHO'VE DECLARED *OPEN*
WAR ON THE PEOPLE OF
THE DEEP, DISPATCHING THEIR
DRUG-FUELED *CYBERNETIC*
PERVERSIONS TO KILL AT WILL.

ON SOME
BLOOD RED DAYS
UNDER THE SEA...



...IT IS ENOUGH
TO DRIVE A KING
TO *DRINK*.

THE MARIANA TRENCH.
SEVEN MILES DOWN.
DEEPEST PART OF THE SEA FLOOR.

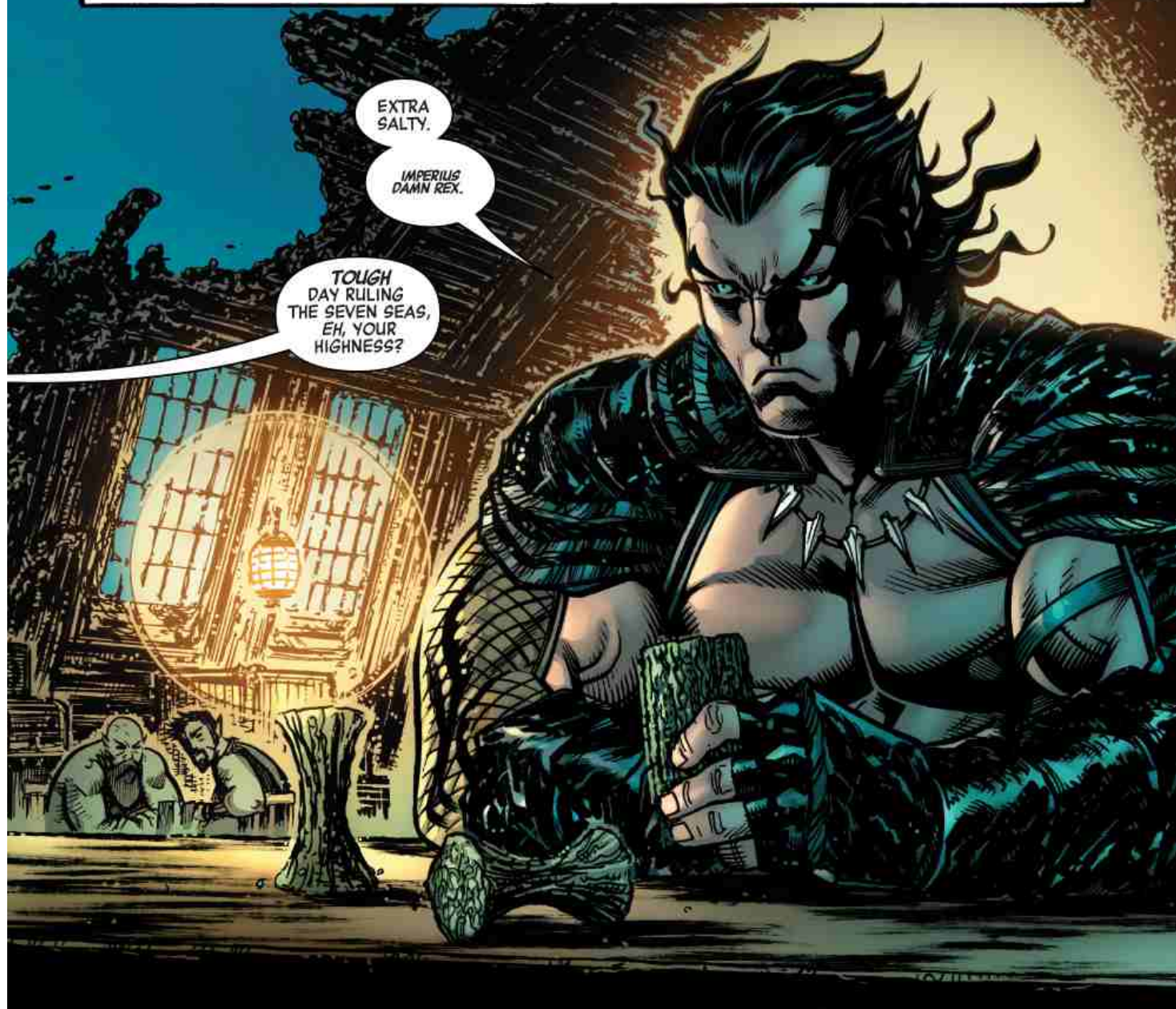
DAVY JONES SALOON.
DEEPEST BAR IN THE WORLD.

ANOTHER
SPONGE OF
BLOBFISH
GROG.

EXTRA
SALTY.

IMPERIUS
DAMN REX.

TOUGH
DAY RULING
THE SEVEN SEAS,
EH, YOUR
HIGHNESS?





I AM WET WITH
THE BLOOD OF *DOLPHINS*.
BESIEGED BY OIL COMPANIES
AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS
BENT ON OPEN
CONFLICT.

WHILE TO
DEFEND MY
PEOPLE, I MUST
TURN TO...

"...MY KINGDOM'S
MOST...*UNSAVORY*
ELEMENTS."

WHO ALSO
HUNGER FOR WAR.
NOTHING SHORT
OF FULL-SCALE
SURFACE
INVASION.

EVERYONE
HUNGERS FOR WAR.
ABOVE AND BELOW.
FOR ONCE, *NAMOR* IS
THE LONE VOICE OF
RESTRAINT.

BUT PERHAPS
I AM ONLY DELAYING
THE BLOODY INEVITABLE.
PERHAPS...I SHOULD
GIVE THE WORLD WHAT
IT WANTS.

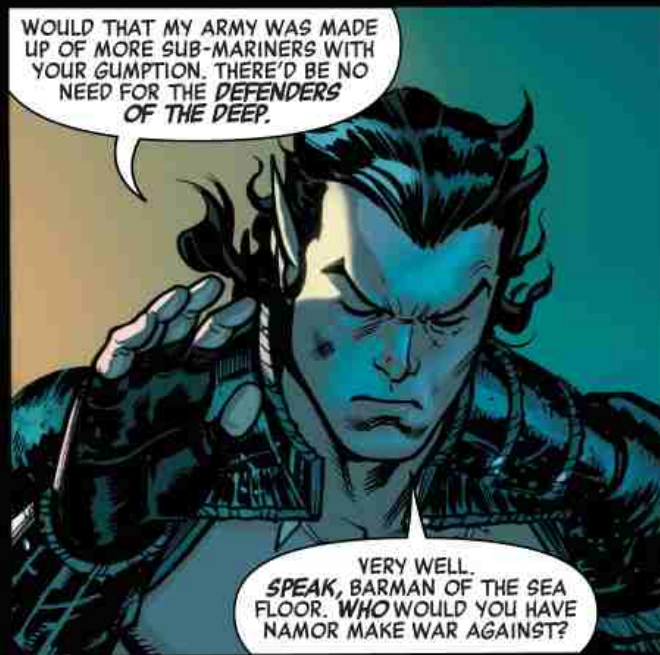
PERHAPS
YOU
SHOULD.

BUT MAYBE
IT'S NOT THE
ENTIRE SURFACE
WORLD YOU NEED
TO BE WARRING
AGAINST.



MIND YOUR TONGUE, BARKEEP. I COME HERE FOR SOLITUDE, NOT COUNSEL.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIRE, I WAS RAISED TO SPEAK MY MIND. AND AS LONG AS THERE'S WATER IN MY GILLS AND SEA SALT IN MY BLOOD, BY THE BELUGAS, THAT'S WHAT THE HELL I'LL DO.



WOULD THAT MY ARMY WAS MADE UP OF MORE SUB-MARINERS WITH YOUR GUMPTION. THERE'D BE NO NEED FOR THE DEFENDERS OF THE DEEP.

VERY WELL. **SPEAK**, BARMAN OF THE SEA FLOOR. WHO WOULD YOU HAVE NAMOR MAKE WAR AGAINST?



AGAINST THE ONES WHO **STARTED** ALL THIS--BY INVADING YOUR KINGDOM, BY SIDING WITH THOSE PILLAGERS FROM ROXXON.

THE ONES WHO'LL ALWAYS TAKE THE SIDE OF THE SURFACE DWELLERS, NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO TO US. ESPECIALLY WITH A **WAKANDAN** IN CHARGE.

THE **AVENGERS**, MY LORD. ATLANTIS NEEDS TO GO TO WAR WITH EARTH'S MIGHTIEST "HEROES."



BELIEVE ME... YOUR KING SHARES MANY OF YOUR CONCERNS. BUT WE HAVE NOT THE STRENGTH.

UNLESS I WERE TO FULLY UNLEASH MY DEFENDERS... TRULY **UNTETHER** THEM...

BUT NO, THAT WAY LIES RUIN, FOR EVERYONE. I WOULD FORFEIT THE CROWN BEFORE I WOULD SEE THE SEVEN SEAS TURNED CRIMSON FROM SHORE TO SHORE.



THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T RELY SOLELY ON YOUR DEFENDERS.

POKE YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE OCEAN AND LOOK AROUND, YOUR HIGHNESS. ATLANTIS IS FAR FROM THE ONLY **ENEMY** THESE AVENGERS HAVE MADE.

TELL ME... HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF THE **VAMPIRES**?

**UKRAINE.
THE CHERNOBYL
EXCLUSION ZONE.**

GO! REMOVE
YOUR UNDEAD
CARCASSES FROM
THIS PLACE! YOU
ARE UNWANTED!

THERE IS
NO KINGDOM OF
THE VAMPIRES HERE!
YOU CAME ALL THIS
WAY BECAUSE OF LIES,
YOU PATHETIC
SCAVENGERS!

KING
DRACULA IS
DEAD!

AND YOU
WILL BE AS WELL,
EH, FANGER, IF YOU
DO NOT RUN FOR
COVER VERY
SOON.

YOU'VE BEEN
KNEELING HERE ALL
NIGHT. CAN YOU FEEL IT
YET? THAT *SIZZLE* ON
YOUR WORTHLESS
HIDE?

THE *SUN*
IS STARTING
TO RISE.

YOU MAY
RUN FOR THE
SHADOWS OR BURN
TO A CRISP WHERE
YOU KNEEL!

BUT KNOW
THIS... *NONE* OF
YOU ARE SETTING
FOOT INSIDE OUR
SARCOPHAGUS!



MORE THAN YESTERDAY. THE WORD IS SLEEPING OUT. HOW MANY HAVE RUN FOR THE WOODS?

ENOUGH TO KEEP THE RAT BOMBER'S GRENADE-STRAPPED PETS BUSY.

AND THE OTHERS? HOW LONG WILL YOU MAKE THEM KNEEL BEFORE YOU OPEN THE DOORS?

OUR PEOPLE HAVE BECOME WEAK. EASILY PREYED UPON.



TO FORGE A NEW SHADOW NATION, WE NEED THE STRONG. THE DEVOTED. THE FERVENTLY DAMNED.

AND ONLY ONCE I CAN SMELL THAT STRENGTH BURNING FROM HERE...



"...WILL THESE VAMPIRES BE GRANTED A PLACE INSIDE MY KINGDOM AND ALLOWED TO KNEEL BEFORE THEIR UNHOLY LORD.

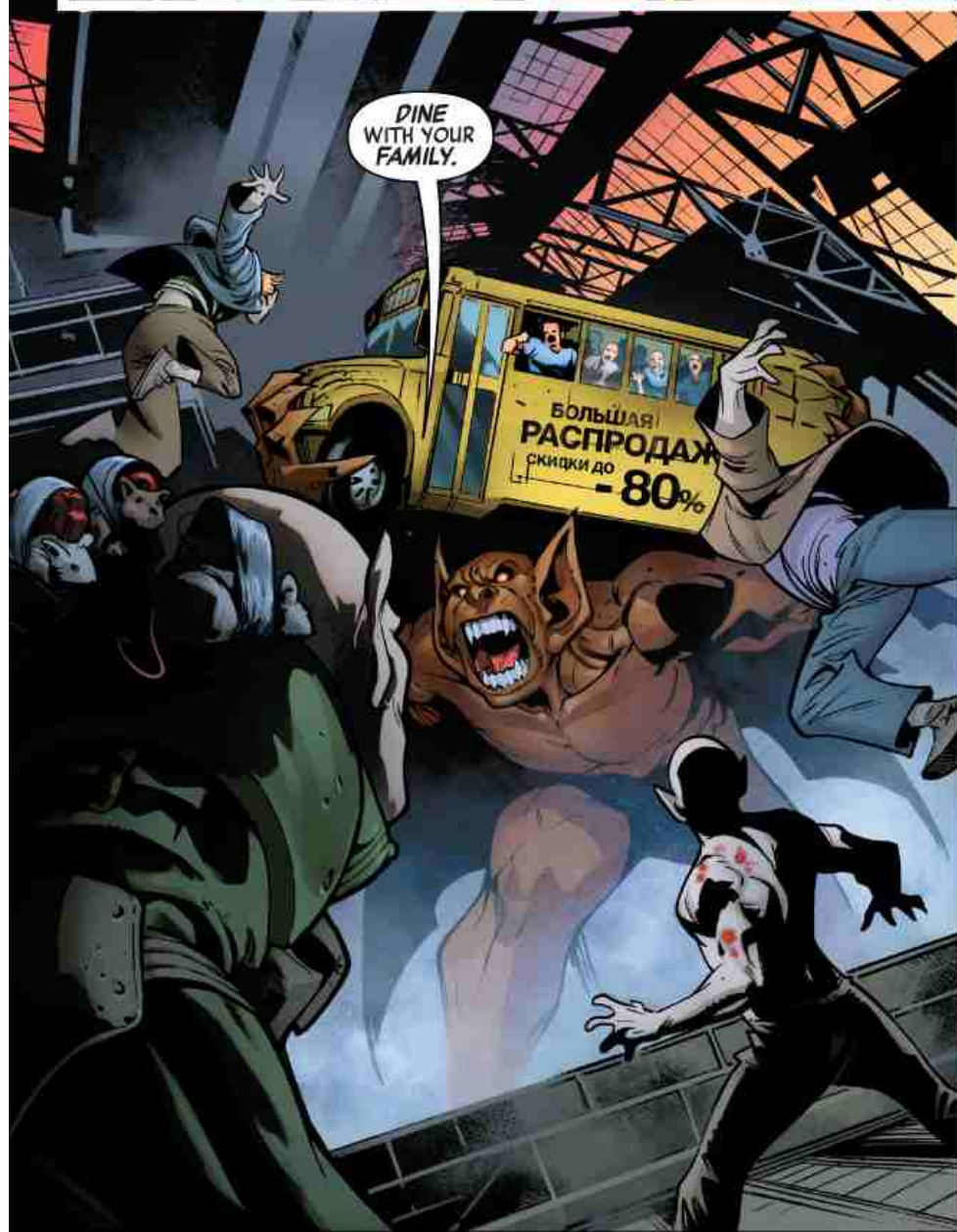
"DRACULA HAS SPOKEN."

GRRRRRRGCH!!



WELCOME,
MY NEW BROTHERS
AND SISTERS.

COME.



DINE
WITH YOUR
FAMILY.

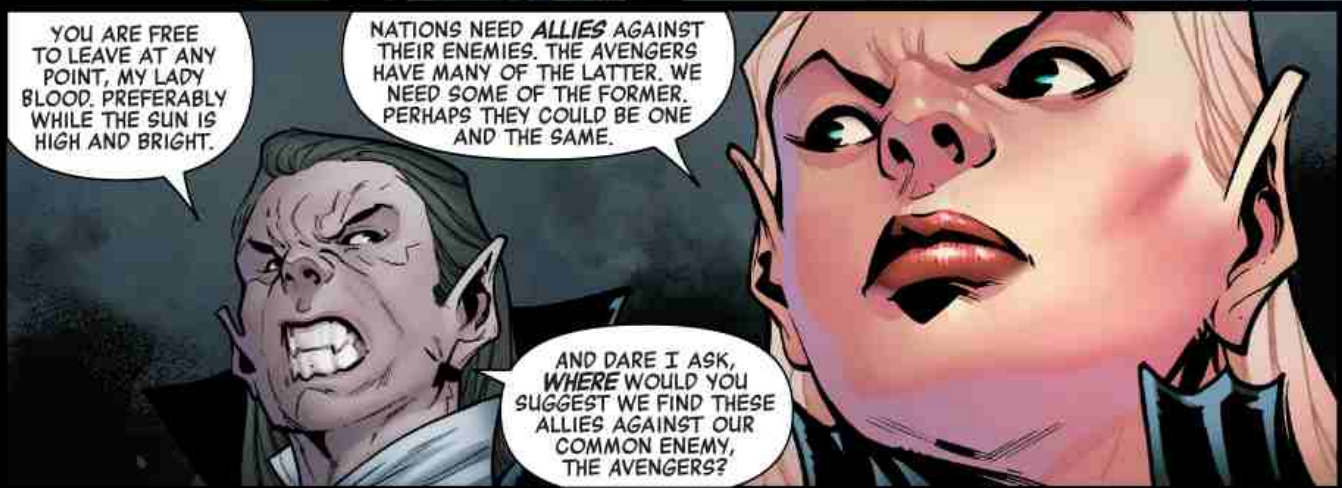
БОЛЬШАЯ
РАСПРОДАЖА
скидки до
-80%



THEY WON'T
BE ENOUGH. EVEN
AN ARMY OF SCARED
VAMPS WOULDN'T
BE ENOUGH.

I BEG
YOUR PARDON,
BARONESS
BLOOD?

THE AVENGERS
STILL COUNT THE
DHAMPIR *BLADE* AMONG
THEIR RANKS. THEY WILL
FIND US HERE. THEY WILL
THROTTLE THIS NEW
NATION OF YOURS IN ITS
CRIB. THEY WILL SCATTER
US TO THE WINDS
AS BEFORE.



YOU ARE FREE
TO LEAVE AT ANY
POINT, MY LADY
BLOOD. PREFERABLY
WHILE THE SUN IS
HIGH AND BRIGHT.

NATIONS NEED *ALLIES* AGAINST
THEIR ENEMIES. THE AVENGERS
HAVE MANY OF THE LATTER. WE
NEED SOME OF THE FORMER.
PERHAPS THEY COULD BE ONE
AND THE SAME.

AND DARE I ASK,
WHERE WOULD YOU
SUGGEST WE FIND THESE
ALLIES AGAINST OUR
COMMON ENEMY,
THE AVENGERS?

MOSCOW. WINTER GUARD MANSION.

WELCOME BACK, GUARDIANS, FROM WHAT I AM CERTAIN WAS ANOTHER PROUD AND PATRIOTIC MISSION TO PROTECT OUR MOTHERLAND!

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR NOBLE LABORS, MISTRESS **RED WIDOW**, ON BEHALF OF THE GENERATIONS OF UNBENDING PEOPLE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

WILL YOU BE REQUIRING YOUR USUAL POST-MISSION ROUTINE? I HAVE A HOT MILK BATH WAITING. AND CAVIAR HAS BEEN PREPARED TO YOUR LIKING.

UNLESS THE **BEAR** GETS TO IT FIRST.

THAT WILL DO.

AND I CAN ALSO OFFER **HELP** AGAINST THE AVENGERS.



WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

CAVIAR,
MADAM. I CAN
PROVIDE ALL THE
CAVIAR YOU
DESIRE.

NO. AFTER
THAT.

DID YOU
DARE SPEAK
TO ME OF THE
AVENGERS?

WELL, IT IS JUST MY MEAGER,
UNEDUCATED OPINION, MADAM,
AS THE HUMBLE **BUTLER** OF
RUSSIA'S GREATEST
HEROES...

...THAT
PERHAPS IF WE WERE
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
THE FACT THAT THE AVENGERS
HAVE MADE **MANY** ENEMIES
AROUND THE GLOBE
OF LATE...

...NOT TO FORGE
ALLIANCES, NECESSARILY,
SAY, WITH **KING NAMOR** OR
DRACULA AND HIS VAMPIRES, BUT
TO **USE** THOSE ENEMIES TO...

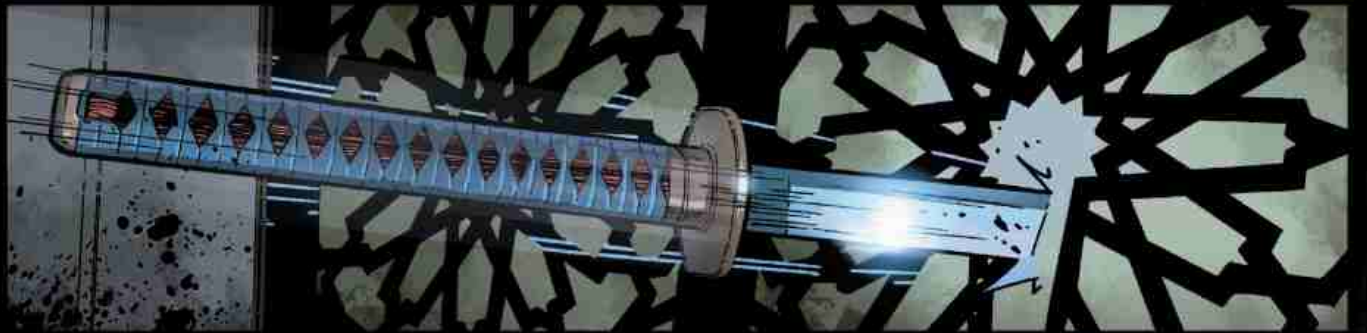




I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU WORK FOR,
BUT IT MOST ASSUREDLY
ISN'T **US**.

VOSTOK, TAKE
HIM TO THE RED ROOM.
HAVE THEM PULL WHATEVER
ANSWERS THEY CAN FROM
HIS BRAIN.

I'LL BE IN MY
QUARTERS.



"I **KNOW**
THAT LOOK.

"I KNOW A
BROODING
ANTIHERO
WHEN I SEE
ONE.

"I OWN
A **MIRROR**.

"YOU'RE THINKING
YOU DON'T **BELONG**
HERE WITH ALL THESE
PRETTY FOLK.

"BECAUSE YOU DON'T FLY AND
CATCH PEOPLE WHO ARE FALLING.
YOU DON'T MOVE MOUNTAINS
WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.

"NO KID ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD'S
GOT A POSTER OF **YOU** TAPED TO
THEIR WALL, STARING AT IT EVERY
DAY, WISHING THEY COULD GROW
UP TO BE JUST **LIKE YOU**.

"YOU'RE NOT ONE
OF EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST HEROES.

"ALL YOU'VE
EVER BEEN IS
A **KILLER--**"



HMPH. SAYS
THE LADY WHO'S
LEAVING.

I NEVER
LEAVE THE
AVENGERS. NOT
FOR LONG.

BUT THE FIRST
TIME I WAS INVITED
AMONG THEM, AS AN ALLY,
I COULDN'T STOMACH
THEIR EYES ON ME.

I HATED
MYSELF FOR THINKING
I WAS WORTH BREATHING
THE SAME AIR AS
THEM.

I WANTED
TO RUN AWAY...AND
BURY MY HEAD IN BLOOD,
WHERE I BELONGED.

BLOOD
IS THE AIR I
BREATHE.

AND FROM
WHAT I CAN TELL,
BLACK WIDOW, THE
CLOUDS ARE AWFULLY WELL
PROTECTED. BUT IT'S HARD
TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE
CAVES FROM WAY
UP HERE.

THIS IS
AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.
I FIGURE I'VE SEEN BARELY
A TENTH OF WHAT THIS PLACE
CAN DO, AND THAT'S ENOUGH
TO CONVINCE ME THAT YOU
CAN KEEP AN EYE ON ANYWHERE
AND EVERYWHERE FROM
UP HERE.

STAY. AND
BE PART OF
PROTECTING
IT ALL.

TAKE IT FROM
AN OLD RUSSIAN SPY.
ONLY FEELING AT HOME
AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM
ANYTHING THAT FEELS
REMOTELY LIKE A HOME
IS NO WAY TO LIVE.

NOT FOREVER.
NOT EVEN FOR
A VAMPIRE.

WAKANDAN GLOBAL
AUTO-TAXI ENGAGED.
WHERE WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GO,
MS. ROMANOVA?

BACK DOWN
TO EARTH FOR
A BIT, I'M
AFRAID.

"THEY WANT YOU HERE, BLADE.
THEY NEED YOU. SO BE AN AVENGER.
YOU'VE DAMN WELL EARNED IT."

"NOW GIVE THE REST OF THEM THE
CHANCE TO EARN THE RIGHT TO BE YOUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOR LIFE."

MRRP.

YOU TOO,
HUH, BOY-
THING?

FINE.

BUT FIRST
PERSON WHO
CALLS ME "BROTHER"
IS GETTING FANGED
IN THE FACE.



"...WHO'S OUT THERE THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE **PUNCHING**?"

YES, SIR. I UNDERSTAND, SIR. I AGREE, SIR.

YES, I SEE THE POTENTIAL IN **UNITING** THE AVENGERS' ENEMIES AGAINST THEM.

I JUST DON'T SEE HOW YOU COULD EVER GET WILD CARDS LIKE **NAMOR** AND **DRACULA** TO WORK TOGETHER, LET ALONE ONCE YOU BRING IN THE **RUSSIANS** AND...

SIR, YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING YOU THINK MY **SQUADRON** WOULD BE WILLING TO...

YES, OF COURSE, SIR. YOUR **SQUADRON**, SIR.

NO, SIR, I MEANT NO DISRESPECT. I...

YES, SIR, I **DO** REMEMBER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE DECEASED. QUITE **VIVIDLY**. AND I **ASSURE** YOU, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO...

DIRECTOR COULSON? THEY'RE READY FOR YOU NOW.

I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO GO, SIR.

YES, THAT **IS** TODAY.

YES, SIR, I WILL INDEED TELL HIM YOU SAID HELLO.

YES, SIR, HER TOO.

YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR. THANK YOU, SIR. AND, SIR, I JUST WANT TO APOLOGIZE ONCE AGAIN FOR EARLIER, AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW WITH PROFOUND AND SECURE CERTAINTY...

"THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON
THE *SQUADRON SUPREME*
OF AMERICA. WITH
WHATEVER MAY COME.

"YES, SIR. SOUNDS
WONDERFUL. ALL
THE *BLESSINGS* TO
YOU, SIR. GOODBYE."

THANK
YOU!

THANK YOU TO
AMERICA'S MIGHTIEST
HEROES



AND
GOD BLESS
AMERICA!

"YOU'RE DOING A FINE
JOB, AGENT COULSON.
DON'T MAKE ME REGRET
HAVING YOU SMUGGLED
OUT OF HELL. NOT WHEN
THE GAME HAS
ONLY JUST *BEGUN*."





YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR. THANK YOU, SIR. AND, SIR, I JUST WANT TO APOLOGIZE ONCE AGAIN FOR EARLIER, AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW WITH PROFOUND AND SECURE CERTAINTY...

...THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON THE SQUADRON SUPREME OF AMERICA. WITH WHATEVER MAY COME.

HEH. THE BURNING OF A WORLD IS WHAT'S TO COME. A BURNING DOWN THROUGH ALL THE AGES.

YES, SIR. SOUNDS WONDERFUL. ALL THE BLESSINGS TO YOU, SIR. GOODBYE.

GOODBYE, AGENT COULSON.

HEH. NAMOR. DRACULA. THE WINTER GUARD.

MY DEAR COULSON DOESN'T BELIEVE THEY'LL WORK TOGETHER. HE DOESN'T REALIZE...



...THEY ALREADY ARE.



"THEY JUST
DON'T
KNOW IT."

"FOR THE
INFLUENCE
OF MEPHISTO
KNOWS
NO BOUNDS."

"EVEN FROM WITHIN
THE CONFINES OF MY
FIERY CAGE, FROM
WHICH I COULD NOT
POSSIBLY DO
ANYONE HARM."

"FROM WHICH
I'M NOT EVEN
TRYING TO
ESCAPE. WHY
WOULD I?"

"HEH. IT
APPEARS
THE OLD
ADAGE IS
TRUE."

"THE DEVIL IS
MOST DEVILISH WHEN
RESPECTABLE."

AND OH, HOW
VERY RESPECTABLE
I'VE BECOME."



THE **BARTENDER**
WAS RIGHT, THINKS THE
KING OF ATLANTIS.

I KNEW
YOU WOULD HEAR
MY CALL.

HIS KINGDOM NEEDS
ALLIES AGAINST
THE AVENGERS.

I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN ABLE TO FEEL
AN **EMBER** OF YOU...
STILL **SMOLDERING** IN
THE BACK OF MY
BRAIN.

OUR JOINING...
WAS TOO BRIEF. TOO
MISGUIDED.

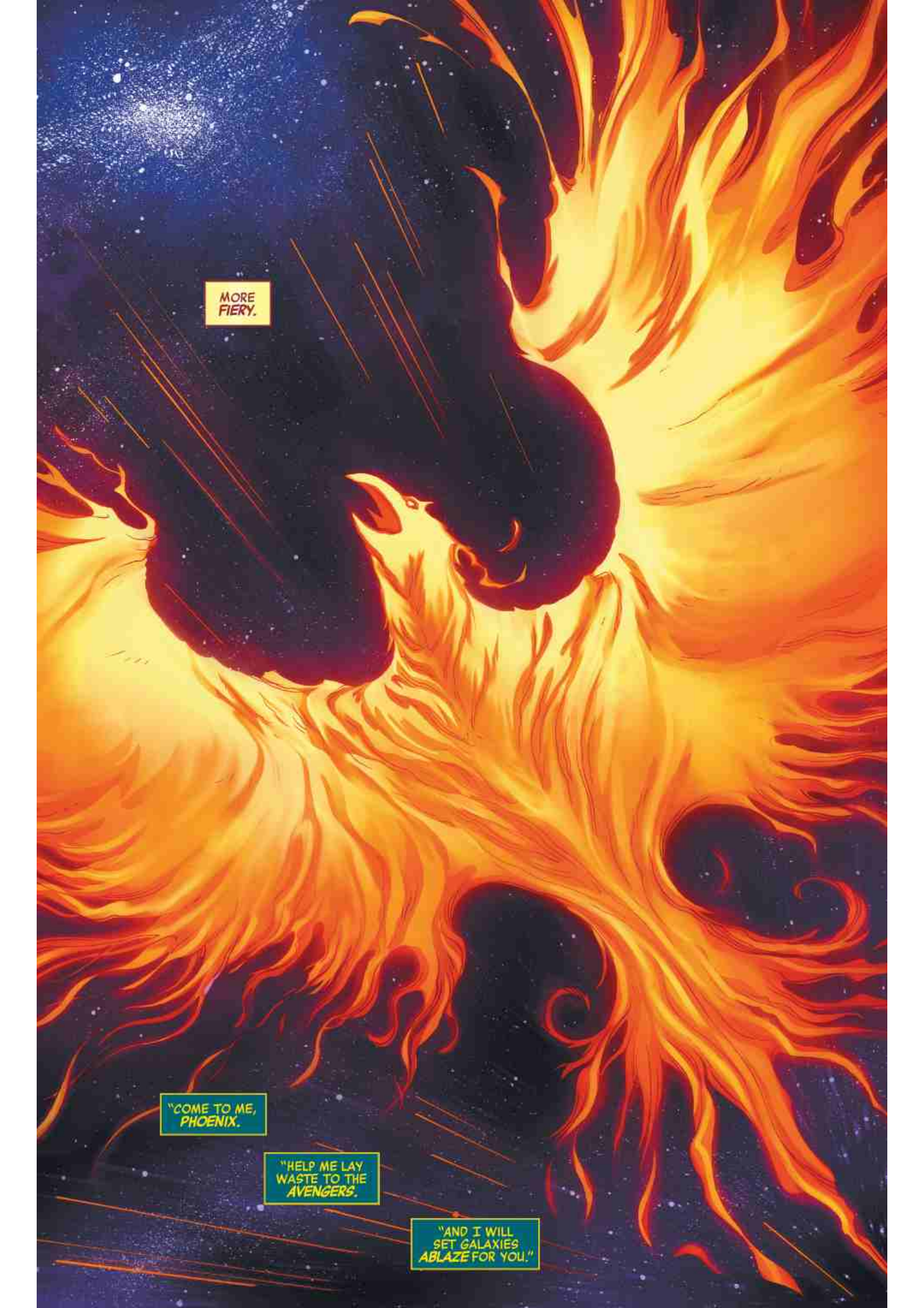
BUT NOT
VAMPIRES AND
RUSSIANS. NO.

I KNOW
YOU WANT
MORE.

I WILL
GIVE YOU
EVERYTHING
YOU MOST
DESIRE.

I WILL
GIVE YOU
EVERY PART
OF ME.

SOMETHING...
MUCH MORE
GRAND.



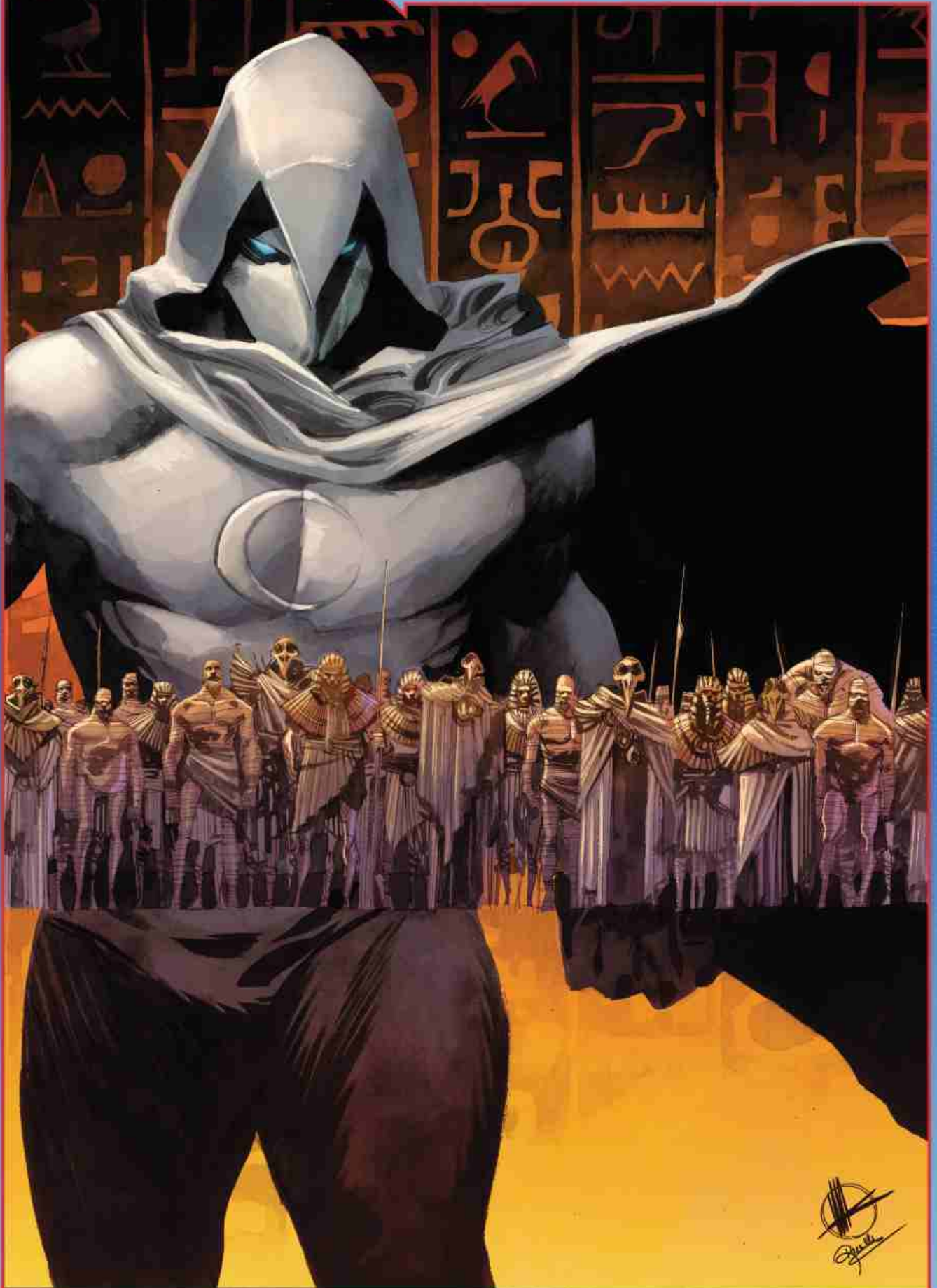
**MORE
FIERY.**

**"COME TO ME,
PHOENIX."**

**"HELP ME LAY
WASTE TO THE
AVENGERS."**

**"AND I WILL
SET GALAXIES
ABLAZE FOR YOU."**

**33 THE AGE OF KHONSHU PART 1
MOON KNIGHT VS. THE AVENGERS**



Quinn

THE HIMALAYAS.
THE MYSTICAL CITY
OF K'UN-LUN.



IT IS A PRAYER KNOWN
ONLY TO PHAROHS
AND THE HIGH PRIESTS
OF THE NIGHT.

I PRAY FOR THE **POWER** OF
THE TIDES, FOR THE **SPEED**
OF THE MOON ORBITING AROUND
ME AT 2,288 MILES PER HOUR.

I HAVE BEEN PRAYING SINCE
SUNDOWN WHEN I FEEL
SOMETHING **SHIFT** IN THE AIR.

A SIZZLE OF
DRAGON FIRE.

HE IS
HERE.

HEY.



YOU
KNOW I LIVE
IN **MANHATTAN**,
RIGHT?

THERE ARE
EASIER WAYS TO
GET MY ATTENTION
THAN COMING ALL
THE WAY UP
HERE.





AT LEAST I **ASSUME** YOU WERE TRYING TO GET MY ATTENTION. THE GUARDS SAY YOU TRIPPED EVERY ONE OF THE HIDDEN SECURITY ALARMS AS YOU CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN.

IF EVEN **HALF** OF WHAT I'VE ALWAYS HEARD ABOUT YOU IS TRUE, THEN I'M PRETTY SURE THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU **WANTED** IT TO.

YOU ARE **MOON KNIGHT**, AREN'T YOU?



I AM THE **FIST OF KHONSHU**.

AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE ONE WAY.

OKAY, SURE. LUKE ISN'T BIG ON TEXTING EITHER.

SO HERE WE ARE, A COUPLE OF **FISTS**. SURPRISED WE NEVER REALLY TEAMED UP BEFORE.

I SEEK THE **IRON FIST**.

THAT'S ME. YOU CAN CALL ME **DANNY**.

SO WHAT'S UP? YOU NEED HELP PUNCHING SOME BAD GUYS? IS IT WHOEVER STOLE YOUR **SHIRT**?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DANIEL RAND. I'M NOT HERE FOR YOU. AS I SAID...



I SEEK THE **IRON FIST**.





THEY'LL SAY
I DID THIS
BECAUSE I WAS
CRAZY.

THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

THE IRON FIST OF
SHOU-LAO.

THAT'S HOW
THEY THINK OF
ME--THE MANIAC
IN WHITE.

THE SUPER
SCHIZOPHRENIC.

THE FOOT OF
THE SPHINX.

BUT I
WANT YOU
TO KNOW,
DANIEL...

THE IRON FIST OF
SHOU-LAO.
THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

...I AM
NOT OFF
MY MEDS.

THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

I AM NOT
DELUSIONAL.

THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

I AM UNDER
THE CONTROL
OF NO ONE BUT
MYSELF.

THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

AND THIS...THIS
TRANSFORMATION
THAT BEGINS HERE
TODAY...

DON'T...

DON'T
MAKE ME
KILL YOU.

THIS IS
THE *SANE*
THING TO
DO.

NOW I PRAY
FOR *GRACE*.

I PRAY THE *PAIN*
AWAY AS THE
POWER OF THE
ANKH BURNS
THROUGH THE
HEAVY MESH
OF MY SACRED
FIST WRAPS.

MESH THAT CAN
STOP A BULLET.
BUT NOT THE FIRE
OF THE *IMMORTAL*
DRAGON
OF K'UN-LUN.

I PRAY FOR
THE *SCREAMS*
TO END.

INCLUDING
MY *OWN*.

AAAAARGH!!!

GREENWICH VILLAGE. THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM.

AND THE SCREAMS DO FADE. JUST IN TIME FOR THEM TO START UP AGAIN IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD.

I KNOW THE UNDEAD DON'T TEND TO BE THE BRIGHTEST... ROTTEN BRAIN TISSUE AND ALL... BUT ATTACKING DOCTOR STRANGE IN HIS OWN HOME...

THAT'S RATHER IDIOTIC! EVEN FOR A BUNCH OF FRESHLY RISEN MUMMIES!

SO BY THE POWER OF THE VISHANTI AND THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO... THIS FOYER SHALL BE YOUR DOOM!

THEY'RE THE LIVING DEAD. THEY'RE ALREADY DOOMED, STEPHEN. AS ARE YOU, I'M AFRAID.

I KNOW THAT VOICE. I'D HOPED I WOULDN'T SEE YOU HERE, SPECTOR. CONSORTING WITH MOON WIZARDS...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND TO YOUR DEMENTED LUNAR OVERLORD AGAIN?



HILLROCK HEIGHTS, EAST L.A.

UGHH.

I FEEL LIKE HELL.

YEAH, ROBBIE, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

WHAT HAPPENED?

JUST WOKE UP... FEELING LIKE MY INSIDES WERE BEING BARBECUED. LIKE...

LIKE I WAS PUKING UP A GHOST RIDER. GOTTA GET OUTSIDE... TO THE CAR.

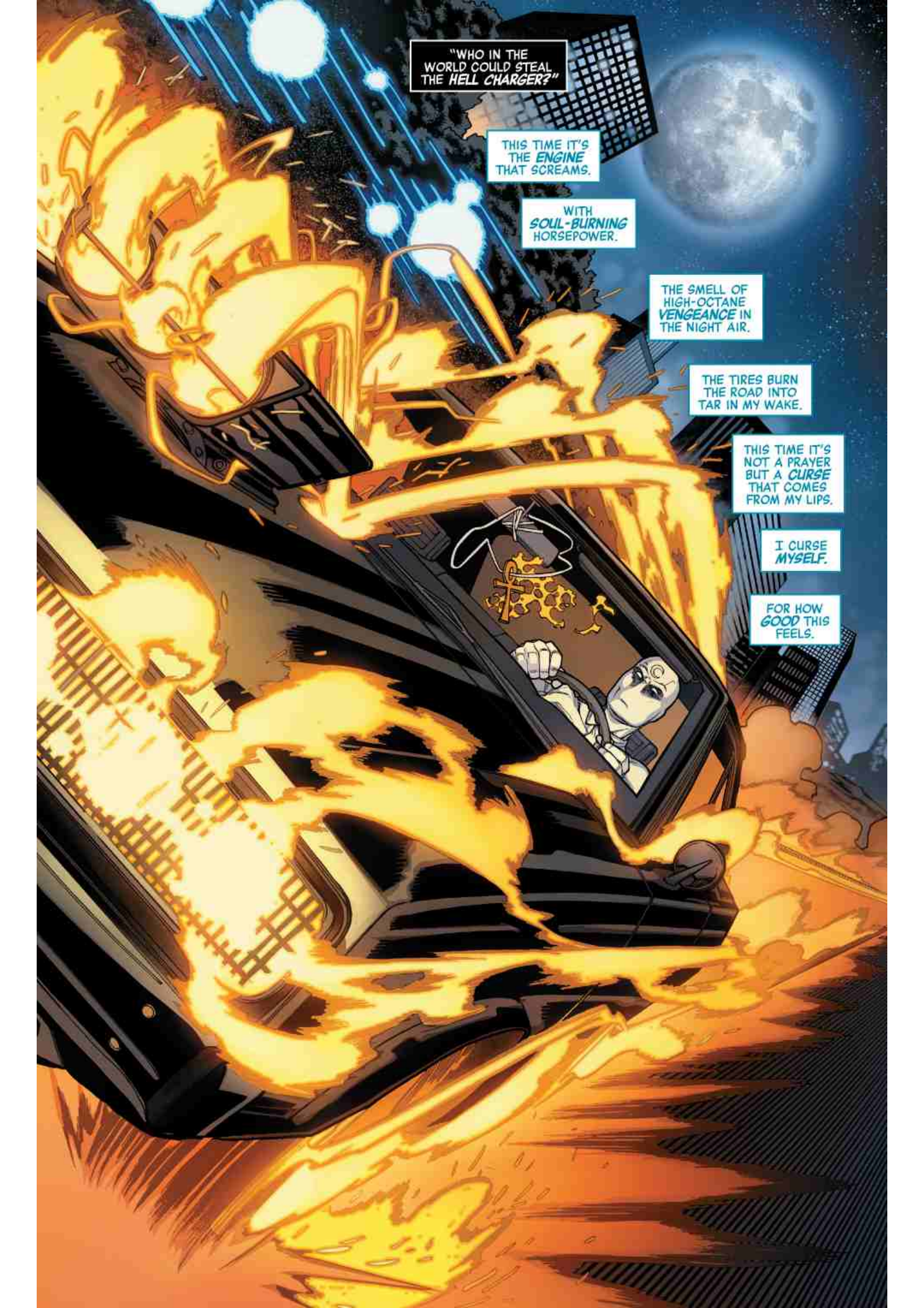
I JUST NEED SOME AIR, GABE.

JUST FEEL SO WEAK. LIKE ALL THE ENERGY'S SUDDENLY DRAINING OUT OF ME FOR SOME REASON, AND IT'S GETTING HARDER TO...

UH, GABE? WHERE'S MY CAR?

IT WAS OUTSIDE LAST TIME I SAW IT. IT'S NOT THERE? DID SOMEBODY STEAL IT?

NO. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.



"WHO IN THE
WORLD COULD STEAL
THE *HELL CHARGER*?"

THIS TIME IT'S
THE *ENGINE*
THAT SCREAMS.

WITH
SOUL-BURNING
HORSEPOWER.

THE SMELL OF
HIGH-OCTANE
VENGEANCE IN
THE NIGHT AIR.

THE TIRES BURN
THE ROAD INTO
TAR IN MY WAKE.

THIS TIME IT'S
NOT A PRAYER
BUT A *CURSE*
THAT COMES
FROM MY LIPS.

I CURSE
MYSELF.

FOR HOW
GOOD THIS
FEELS.



I KNOW THE
FEELING WON'T
LAST LONG.

WAKANDA.

STEVEN?

I KNOW.
HE'S ALREADY
HERE.

AND
NO...



...HE DID
NOT COME
ALONE.

I WAS CAUGHT
OFF GUARD AS WELL.
I WAS NOT AWARE THAT
THE FOLLOWERS OF
KHONSHU POSSESSED
SUCH RESOURCES
AND NUMBERS.



BUT YES,
AFTER THEIR ATTACKS
AGAINST IRON FIST,
DOCTOR STRANGE AND
GHOST RIDER, I CAN
INDEED MAKE A GUESS
AS TO WHAT THEY'RE
AFTER.

LISTEN TO
ME, CAPTAIN.
PROTECT THE
STARBRAND
CHILD.

USE ALL
OF **AVENGERS**
MOUNTAIN'S
DEFENSES. BUT KNOW
THAT MAY NOT BE
ENOUGH. NOT WITH
WHAT THEY'RE
GATHERING.

NO. DO **NOT**
COME HERE. DO
NOT COME
FOR ME.



GOODBYE,
STEVEN. THE
AVENGERS ARE
YOURS NOW.

BLACK
PANTHER.
THIS NEED NOT
BE A WAR.



"TAKE ME
TO YOUR
GOD."

AYE,
CAPTAIN. I
AM ON MY WAY
TO MIDGARD--

--WITH
ALL THE
SPEED AND
FURY OF THE
STORM!

WAIT...IS
THAT...?

THE FOUL
VILLAIN. GODS,
HE IS BOLD.

I SEE HIM,
CAPTAIN! HE
IS UPON THE
MOON!

NAY, I WILL
FINISH THIS
MYSELF!



most
THUNDEROUSLY!



MOON KNIGHT!
YOUR COWARDLY
ASSAULT ON THE
AVENGERS AND OUR
ALLIES ENDS
NOW!

STAND
DOWN!



OR I WILL
DRENCH THIS
MOON IN YOUR
BLOOD!



I WAS
HOPING YOU
WOULD SAY
THAT.

HAVE
AT THEE,
MADMAN!



YOU HAVE
WIELED THIS
HAMMER FOR
HUNDREDS OF
YEARS...



...AND YOU STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT IS.

WHAT...IN
THE NAME OF
THE GODS?



ALL YOU KNOW IS
THAT IT'S MADE OF
UNBREAKABLE
URU.

BUT
WHAT IS
URU?



MJOLNIR...
RETURN TO ME!
THE **ALL-FATHER**
COMMANDS
THEE!

YOU MIGHT'VE
BEEN TOLD THAT
URU IS AS OLD AS THE
UNIVERSE ITSELF. THAT
IT'S RUBBLE FROM THE
DAYS OF CREATION. A
VESTIGE FROM
BEFORE THE GREAT
SPLINTERING.

THIS IS **TRUE**.
URU IS ALL THAT'S
LEFT...OF THE VERY
FIRST ORB OF THE
NIGHT. IN OTHER
WORDS, **THOR...**

...YOUR
HAMMER IS MADE
OF **MOON ROCK**.



UGH!



GAAGH!

DON'T
NEED A
HAMMER
TO...

GUUGH!

...BLUDGEON
YOU!

NNGH!

JUST CALL THE
THUNDERSTORM
AND...



NO.
NOT
HERE YOU
WON'T.

THERE'S
NO MORE
PRAYING
NOW...

...AS I
WALK ON
SACRED
GROUND.

NO MORE
SUPPLICATION
BEFORE A GOD.



NOW I
HUMBLE
ONE.

GUUGH!!!



MJOLNIR...

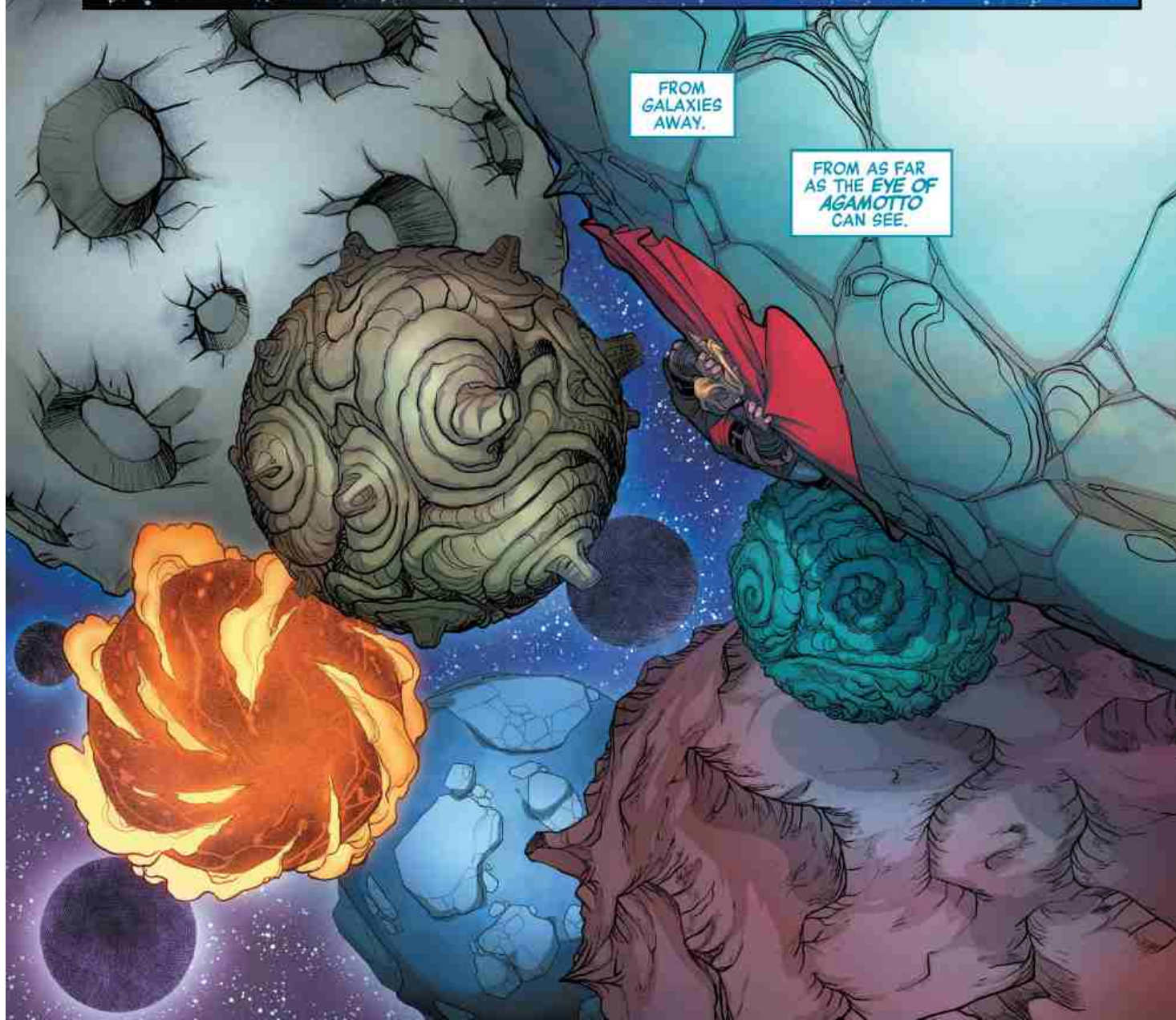
WHY
HAVE YOU
FORSAKEN...

I CALL THE
MOONS FROM
FAR AND WIDE.

GAAAGGH!!!

FROM
GALAXIES
AWAY.

FROM AS FAR
AS THE EYE OF
AGAMOTTO
CAN SEE.





MY NAME IS
MARC SPECTOR,
THE MOON KNIGHT,
AND I HAVE FELLED
A GOD TODAY.

IT MAY
NOT BE
ENOUGH.

MY NAME IS **STEVEN GRANT**,
THE MOON KNIGHT, AND I HAVE
FELLED MANY **FRIENDS** TODAY.

THE **PANTHER**
CANNOT BE BROKEN.
THE **PHOENIX** REMAINS
UNTETHERED, AND THE
STARBRAND IS BEING
HIDDEN FROM US.

IT WILL
HAVE TO BE
ENOUGH.

VERY
WELL
THEN.

NOW THE
REAL WORK
CAN BEGIN.

MY NAME IS **JAKE**
LOCKLEY. MY NAME
IS **MR. KNIGHT**. AND
I HAVE DONE THIS
ALL FOR A VERY
GOOD **REASON**.

MY NAME IS
MOON KNIGHT.
THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

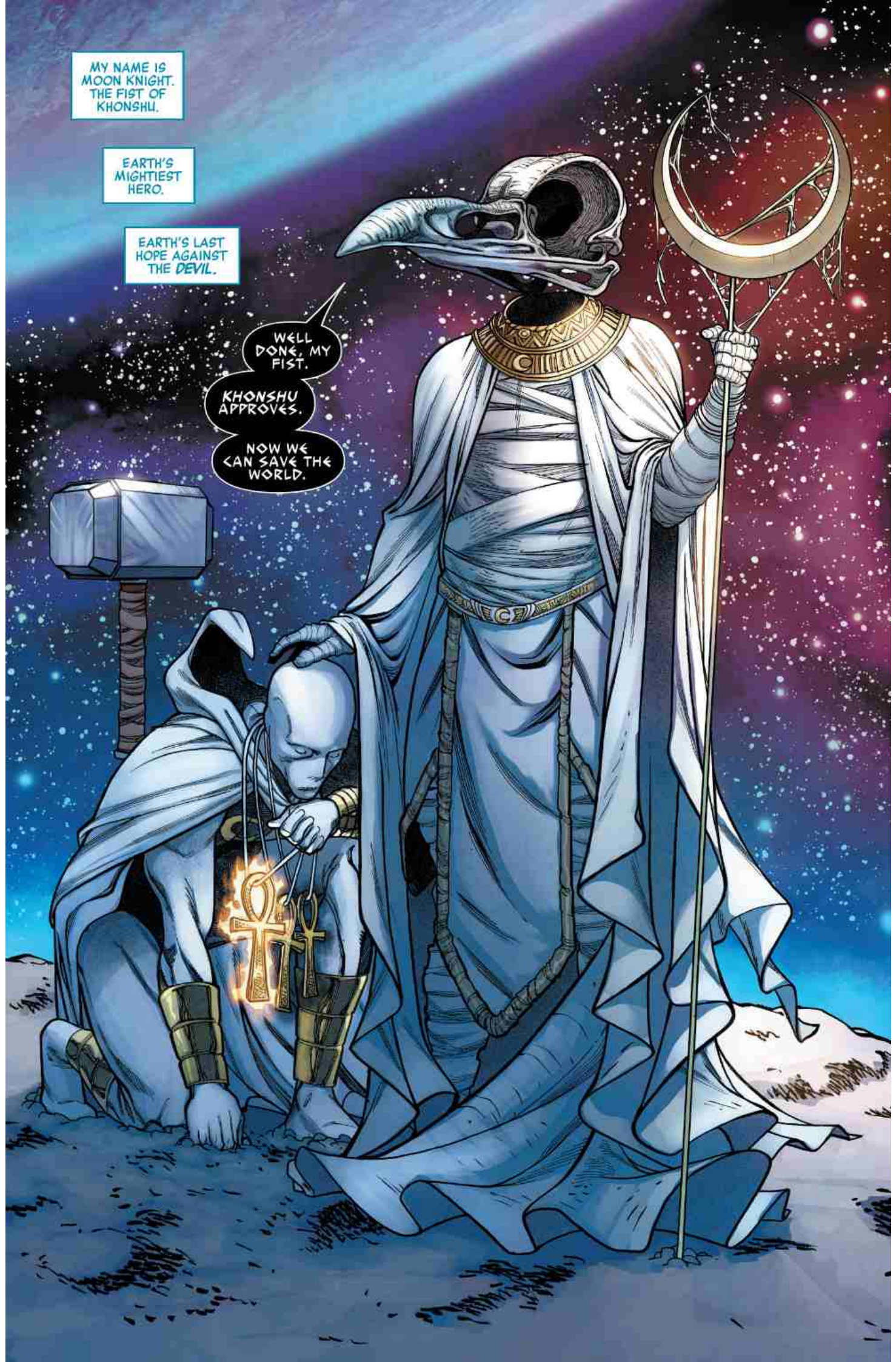
EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST
HERO.

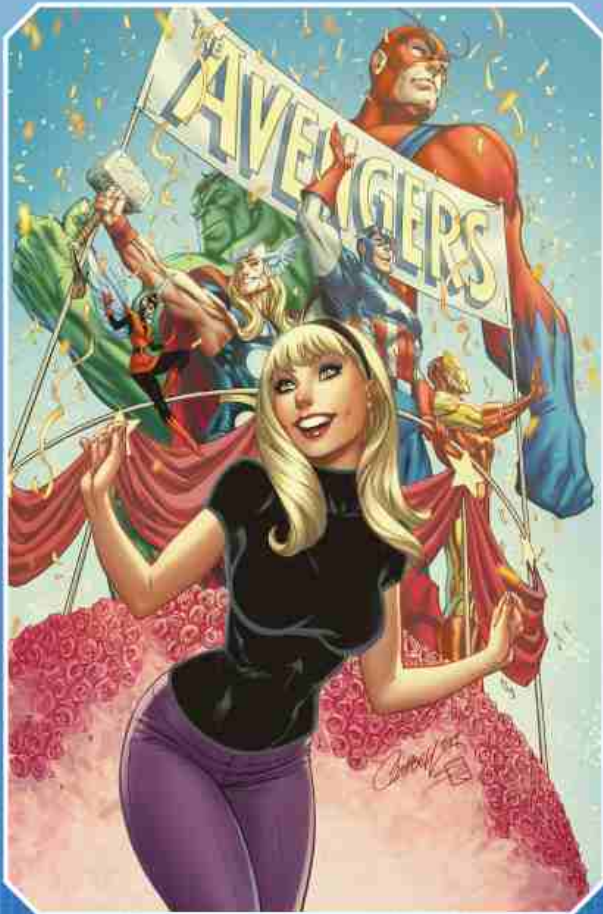
EARTH'S LAST
HOPE AGAINST
THE DEVIL.

WELL
DONE, MY
FIST.

KHONSHU
APPROVES.

NOW WE
CAN SAVE THE
WORLD.





J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & SABINE RICH
31 GWEN STACY VARIANT



TIANQI HU
31 CHINESE NEW YEAR VARIANT



MIKE MCKONE & ANDRES MOSSA
32 SPIDER-WOMAN VARIANT



KHOI PHAM & MORRY HOLLOWELL
33 SPIDER-WOMAN VARIANT

34 THE AGE OF KHONSHU PART 2
THE FIST OF VENGEANCE



WEEKS AGO, EGYPT.

WEST BANK OF THE NILE.
A SECRET TEMPLE BENEATH
THE ANCIENT RUINS OF THE
THEBAN NECROPOLIS.

"DID YOU REALLY
THINK YOU COULD
HIDE THIS PLACE
FROM ME?!"

I COULD
SMELL YOUR
MOON MAGIC
FROM AN OCEAN
AWAY!

I KNOW
YOU'VE CONJURED
HIM BACK INTO THIS
WORLD! **WHERE**
IS HE?!

BETRAYER!

DEFILER!

YOU ARE
NO TRUE SON
OF THE NIGHT
LORD!

I KNOW HE PUT
THESE **HORRORS**
IN MY HEAD!

TELL HIM
I'M HERE
TO RETURN
THE DAMN
FAVOR!

TELL
KHONSHU
HIS FIST HAS
COME!

35 THE AGE OF KHONSHU PART 3
YOU DON'T BEAT THE DEVIL
BY BEING AN ANGEL





YES, YOU'VE HAD VISIONS. OF A LEGION OF SUPER SATANS.

A FEAST OF WORLDS. THE DAWN OF MAN DEFILED.

THE COUNCIL OF RED. THE INFINITY REQUIEM.

SO HAS HE.

WHAT YOU HEARD FROM ACROSS THE SEAS WAS YOUR GOD'S CRY OF WARNING.

NO! IT'S ANOTHER OF HIS DAMNED TRICKS!

ALWAYS PLAYING WITH MY MIND! FROM THE MOMENT I DIED AT THE FOOT OF HIS STATUE, AND HE BROUGHT ME BACK--TO SERVE AS HIS MAD LITTLE SLAVE!

BUT I BEAT HIM OUT OF MY BRAIN BEFORE, AND I'LL DAMN WELL DO IT AGAIN!

THE MOON KNIGHT IS HIS OWN MAN NOW!



NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

IS THAT WHERE HE'S HIDING?

THIS IS NOT THE WORK OF OUR GREAT AND GOOD GOD. HE'S HAD THE SAME VISIONS AS YOU, MARC SPECTOR.

THE MOONS ARE ALL HIS CHILDREN, AND THEY CALL TO HIM OF THE HELL-DRENCHED ANNIHILA-ORGIES THEY'VE SHINED DOWN UPON FROM BEYOND THE STICKY, CRIMSON VEIL BETWEEN--



KHONSHU! I TOLD YOU TO STAY OUT OF MY HEAD!

NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR OWN FIST AND CRAM IT RIGHT DOWN YOUR BIRD-HEADED...

AAAAAARRGGH!!!

...YOUR... WHAT THE HELL...



WE TOLD YOU. GOD HAS SEEN THE DEVIL'S VISIONS TOO.

**ONE MILLION
YEARS AGO.**

WITHOUT *HIM*, OUR
NIGHTS WOULD BE
DREADFULLY DARK.

OUR WEATHER,
WILD AND
EXTREME.

OUR WATERS,
ALL BUT STILL.

WITHOUT HIM
CALLING DOWN
TO US EVERY
NIGHT, LOOMING
SO TANTALIZINGLY
CLOSE, PERHAPS
WE NEVER
WOULD'VE FLOWN
BEYOND OUR OWN
ATMOSPHERE.

NEVER SET
FOOT ON
ANOTHER WORLD.

MOST HAVE NO IDEA.
AND I DO BUT STILL
HATE TO ADMIT IT.

THAT WITHOUT
THE GOD OF THE
MOON, WE'D
ALL BE LOST.



AND THEY
HAVE LEFT HIM...
UNWELL.

EARTHS
EATING
EARTHS!

MOONS
OF MELTED
FLESH!

THE STARS
WON'T STOP
SCREAMING!

MAKE
IT GO
AWAY!

OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE SEEN MANY
THINGS IN THE EYES OF THE GOD TO
WHOM I'M BOUND. RAGE. HATRED.
CRUELTY. MIND-BENDING MADNESS.

BUT NEVER
SUCH STARK
RAVING TERROR.

SPECTOR...
YES, DO WHAT
YOU CAME TO DO,
MY KNIGHT. STRIKE
ME DOWN WITH ALL
YOUR FURY.

KILL
ME.

PLEASE,
SPECTOR...KILL
ME BEFORE HE
COMES.

MY BLOOD RAN AS
COLD AS THE DARK
SIDE OF THE MOON.
AND THEN KHONGSHU
SPOKE A WORD.

A BLOODCURDLING
NAME I KNEW ALL
TOO WELL. THE NAME
OF THE COSMIC BEAST
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
HORRORS I'D SEEN.



FOR HE HAS BEEN
WITH US ALL THIS TIME.
ALL OF OUR TIME.

TREATING
US ALL LIKE
HIS FISTS.

EVER SCHEMING FOR
THE ONE BLOODRED
NIGHT WHEN THE
RESPECT AND ADORATION
HE HAS LONG SO
DESPERATELY CRAVED...

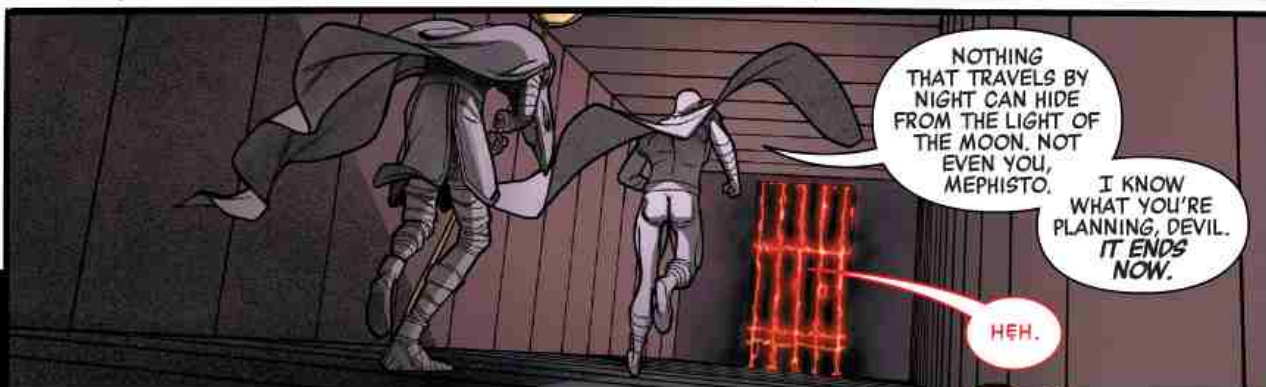
...MIGHT FINALLY
BE WITHIN HIS
MOONLIT GRASP.



MEPHISTO!

AND I KNEW WE HAD
GREAT WORK TO
DO. OF A DARK AND
UNSEEMLY SORT.

NOW.
LAS VEGAS.
THE HOTEL
INFERNO.



NOTHING
THAT TRAVELS BY
NIGHT CAN HIDE
FROM THE LIGHT OF
THE MOON. NOT
EVEN YOU,
MEPHISTO.

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
PLANNING, DEVIL.
**IT ENDS
NOW.**

HEH.



I WAS
PLANNING ON
FINISHING THIS STEAK.
I LIKE THEM FRESH.
BEFORE THE SOUL
HAS CONGEALED.

WOULD
YOU AND YOUR
QUIVERING
CHICKEN-GOD
CARE TO JOIN ME?

GODS HELP US.
THAT NIGHT
HAS COME.

NOW.
NEW THEBES CITY.
FORMERLY KNOWN
AS THE ISLAND OF
MANHATTAN.

I WAS
THERE...WHEN
THE CELESTIAL
FELL.

THE
DISEASED
ONE WHOSE
ROTTING CORPSE
INFECTED THE
NEWBORN
EARTH.

FROM MY
HOLY PERCH IN
THE NIGHT SKY, I
WATCHED THAT
INFECTION
SPREAD.

JUST LIKE
I WATCHED
THE STARBRAND
COMET ATTEMPT TO
BURN IT ALL AWAY,
ALONG WITH
EVERYTHING
THAT LIVED.

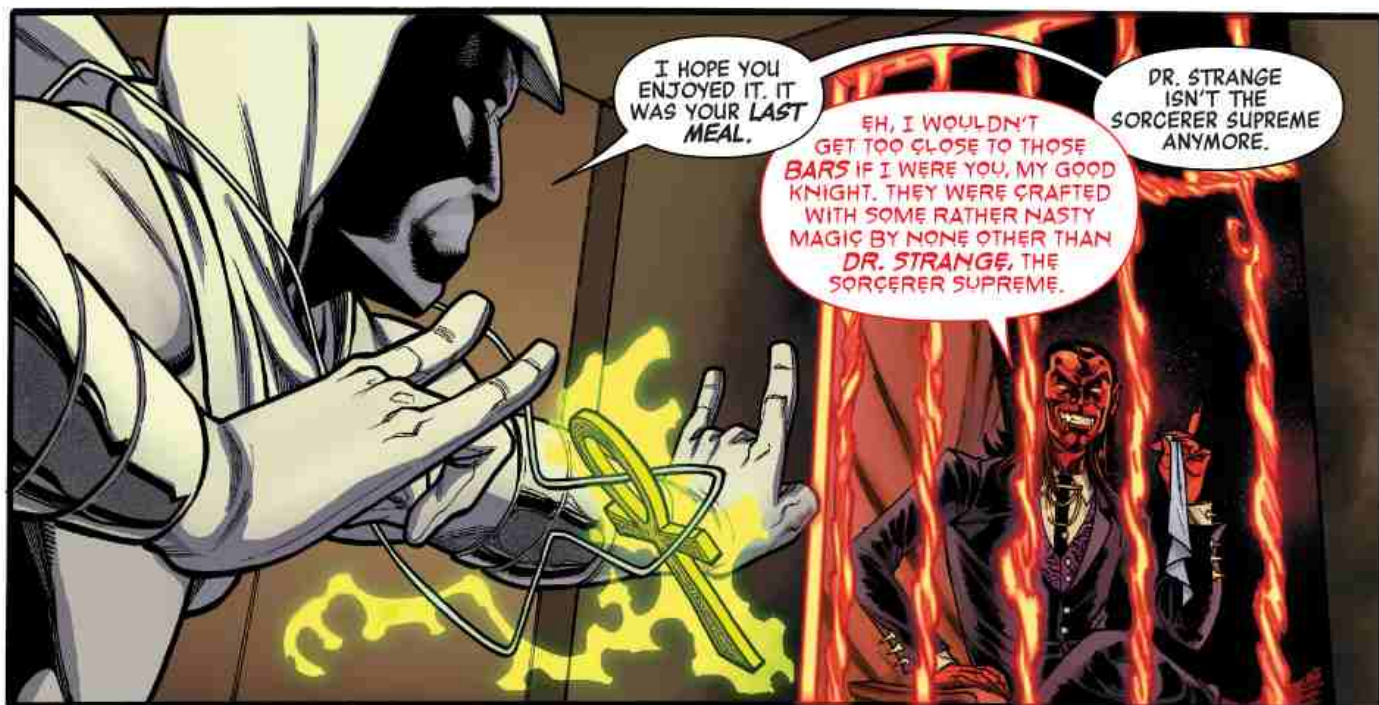
AND THE
ASGARDIANS
DESCEND TO BE
WELCOMED AND
WORSHIPPED BY THE
HALF-WITTED
DREGS WHO
SURVIVED.

I HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN
HERE, QUIETLY
GUIDING YOU LOT
THROUGH THE LONG
NIGHT OF YOUR OWN
EVOLUTIONARY
FUMBLING.

YET WHEN THE
GREAT POWERS
OF THE PREHISTORIC
WORLD FIRST
UNITED, THEY DID
SO...WITHOUT
KHONSHU.

AS IF THE
LORD OF THE
MOON WAS NOT
EVEN WORTH
THEIR NOTICE.

I WONDER...
IF THEY NOTICE
ME NOW.





WE'LL SEE THAT THEY DO.
EVERY LAST ONE.

WON'T WE, MJOLNIR?

MY LORD...

THE GREAT SALVATION OF THE MOON'S LESS LUMINOUS SATELLITE CONTINUES, LORD KHONSHU.

THOUGH YOUR HUMBLE PRIESTS REGRET TO REPORT THAT THE EARTH'S FORTIFICATION PROGRESSES... SLOWER THAN FORECAST.

THERE REMAIN HEAVY POCKETS OF RESISTANCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., MOSCOW, KRAKOA, BENEATH THE SEAS.

BUT EVERY HOUR MORE MUMMIFIED ACOLYTES ARE BEING CONJURED FROM THE REALMS BEYOND AND MORE MOON-POWERED PYRAMIDS ERRECTED AT STRATEGIC POINTS ALONG THE GLOBAL LEY LINES.

THE WORLD WILL BE YOURS, OH BENEVOLENT ONE. THE WORLD WILL BE SAVED.

ALL THANKS TO MIGHTY KHONSHU.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH.



I KNOW THE UNIMAGINABLE SLAUGHTER YOU'RE PLANNING. AND I KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.



LIKE THAT.



THERE'S STILL A HOLE INSIDE HIM. A HOLE FULL OF FEAR.

HIS DREAMS ARE STILL RIFE WITH VISIONS OF BURNING EARTHS.

WITH MOONS OF SCREAMING METAL AND COMETS OF MELTED HUMAN FLESH.

WITH HELL ON A COSMIC SCALE.

KHONSHU KNOWS... HE WILL NEED MORE.

MY LORD, THE MOON TRAIN...



HE WILL NEED IT ALL.

THE MOON TRAIN RUNS TONIGHT. WITH A SPECIAL CARGO WE PREPARED. AS A LURE FOR THE LAST SHREDS OF RESISTANCE WITHIN THE CAPITAL.

WITH THE HELP OF YOUR FIST, WE HOPE TO--

THE FIST HAS HIS OWN MISSION. HE...



THE PANTHER RESISTS. THE PHOENIX HOVERS JUST BEYOND OUR REACH. THE STARBRAND. THE NEW STARBRAND IS THE KEY.

MY LORD?

LEAVE. NOW.



IF YOU VALUE YOUR IMMORTAL SOULS.

FIND THE STARBRAND OR THE EARTH WILL DIE.

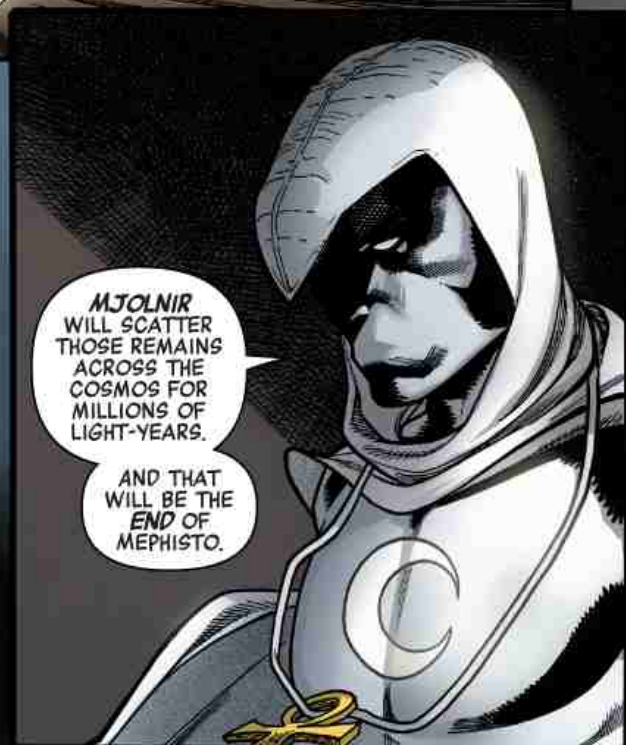


I'LL BURN
HIS FLESH TO
ASH WITH THE
GHOST RIDER'S
HELLFIRE.



THEN
PULVERIZE
THAT ASH WITH
THE IRON
FIST.

AND LACE
WHATEVER
MOLECULES
REMAIN WITH THE
FIERCEST
ENCHANTMENTS OF
THE SORCERER
SUPREME.



MJOLNIR
WILL SCATTER
THOSE REMAINS
ACROSS THE
COSMOS FOR
MILLIONS OF
LIGHT-YEARS.

AND THAT
WILL BE THE
END OF
MEPHISTO.



YOU
KNOW IT
WON'T.



AND HELL WILL
CONQUER ALL.

FOR THE
DEVIL HAS
COME.

KHONSHU!

YOU ARE
ACCUSED OF THE
UNPARDONABLE CRIME
OF MURDERING
MEPHISTO!

AND FOR
THIS YOU SHALL
PAY THE ULTIMATE
PRICE...



...AT THE
HANDS OF
MEPHISTO!

I HEAR HE CAME
WIELDING REVOLVERS THAT
FIRED BRIMSTONE BULLETS.
SOUL-PIERCING ROUNDS.

A GRIZZLED DEVIL
WITH BURNING GRAVEL
IN HIS GUTS, WHO'D NO
DOUBT GUNNED DOWN
BILLIONS IN WHATEVER
DEEP AND DISTANT HELL
HE'D SPAWNED FROM.

KHONSHU KNEW HE WAS
BUT THE FIRST OF *MANY*
VISITORS. MANY COSMIC
ASSASSINS TO COME.

THE AGE OF KHONSHU
HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN.
A MILLION YEARS IN THE
MAKING. AND THE MOON GOD
WOULD NOT SEE IT FALL.



NOT FOR A
MILLION MORE.

WE HAVE
EYES ON THE
MOON TRAIN.
BE READY.

AND WE KNOW
OUR TARGETS
ARE ON BOARD
HOW EXACTLY?

BECAUSE
"YAMP SENSES."
BECAUSE I CAN
SMELL THEM.

OH, GOTCHA.
SO YOU GOT THAT
WOLVERINE KINDA
NOSE, HUH,
BLADE?

LADY, AIN'T
A DAMN THING
ABOUT ME THAT'S
CANADIAN.

FOCUS,
AVENGERS. THIS
IS GUERRILLA
WARFARE. TIMING
IS EVERYTHING.

I'M ALSO
SMELLING A WHOLE
BUNCH OF MUMMIES
ON THAT TRAIN, CAP. WE
KNOW THIS IS PROBABLY
A TRAP, RIGHT?

LET'S HOPE
SO. TRAPS
ALWAYS HAVE
THE BEST
BAIT.

JEN,
YOU IN
POSITION?

ALMOST.
HOLD ON A
SEC.

THINK
ANGRY THOUGHTS.
POLITICS. STUDENT
LOANS. THE
KNICKS.

**TWO WEEKS
LATER.**
NEW THEBES CITY,
FORMERLY KNOWN
AS THE ISLAND OF
MANHATTAN.

WITH THE POWERS I'D GATHERED
FOR HIM, IT TOOK KHONSHU
JUST A MATTER OF DAYS TO
BEGIN RESHAPING THE WORLD.

TO BETTER
DEFEND IT,
HE SAID.

TO FORTIFY THE
EARTH AGAINST THE
ENEMY WE KNEW
WAS COMING.



YOU ARE UNDER
ARREST FOR FAILURE
TO GROVEL, IN THE
NAME OF THE NIGHT
PHARAOH!

AND THOSE TOO BLIND
TO JOIN US, WERE DEEMED
TO BE IN OUR WAY.

NEW YORK
DOESN'T
GROVEL!
YOU'RE
THINKING OF
NEWARK!



MUMMIES ARE RISING
FROM THEIR GRAVES,
BUILDING PYRAMIDS OF
POWER AT SPECIFIC POINTS
ACROSS THE GLOBE.

IT IS ALWAYS NIGHT,
AND THE SKY IS FILLED
WITH MOONS.

AND SOMETIMES
MUFFLED THUNDER.

WELCOME TO
THE AGE OF
KHONSHU.

WELCOME TO
THE WORLD I
HAVE WROUGHT.





"TODAY YOU'RE
GOING TO *BOW*,
KING OF WAKANDA."



I'M
ALREADY
BOWING.

CALL
FOR YOUR
GOD.



THAT IS
NOT BOWING.
YOU ARE *PRAYING*.
FOR ESCAPE.



BUT THERE
IS NO GOD BUT
KHONSHU NOW.

THEN IT'S
KHONSHU TO WHOM
I PRAY. THAT HE MAY
HAVE THE DIGNITY TO FACE
ME HIMSELF, INSTEAD OF
HIDING BEHIND HIS
ACOLYTES.

KHONSHU
DOES NOT ANSWER
TO YOU, AVENGER.
THOUGH YOU *DO* HAVE
SOMETHING HE
SEEKS.









SERIOUSLY,
HOW ARE THE
KNICKS **EVER**
GONNA BE GOOD
AGAIN?!

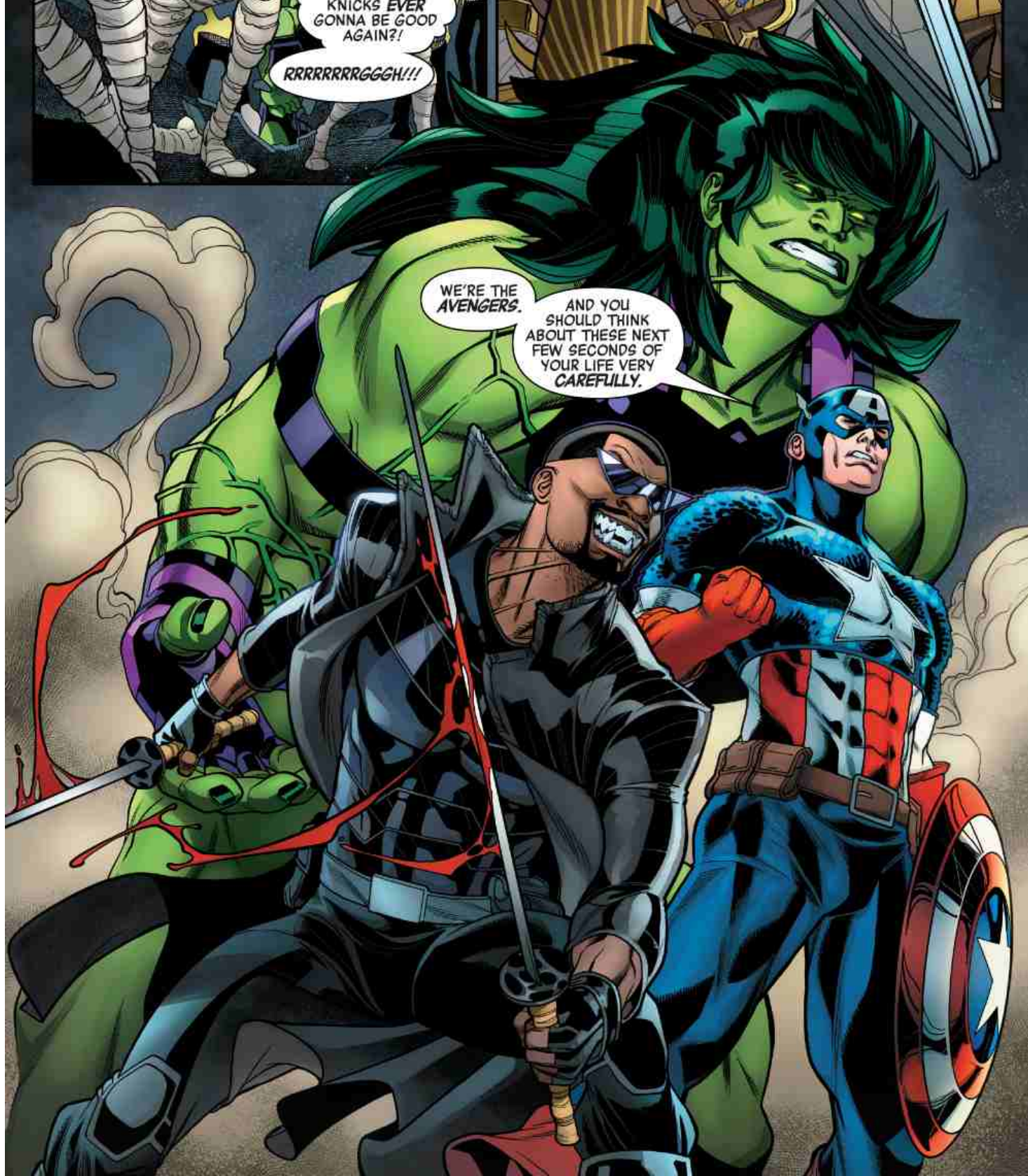
RRRRRRRRGGGH!!!



STAND
STRONG!

WE FIGHT
FOR FATHER
KHONSHU TO
THE BLOODY
DAMN END!

NO MATTER
WHAT COMES
THROUGH THAT
DOOR!



WE'RE THE
AVENGERS.

AND YOU
SHOULD THINK
ABOUT THESE NEXT
FEW SECONDS OF
YOUR LIFE VERY
CAREFULLY.



STOP!

I WILL
SEE TO THE
PANTHER'S
INQUISITION
TODAY.



VERY
WELL, SIR
FIST.

MAY THE
SUPERMOONS
BLESS YOU.

GET
OUT.



THEY'LL
KILL YOU IF
YOU DON'T GIVE
IT TO THEM.

YOU MUST
GIVE THE
SECRET OF YOUR
PANTHER POWER
OVER TO KHONSHU.
IT'S THE ONLY
WAY TO SAVE
THE WORLD.

SPECTOR...
I KNOW YOU'VE
HAD YOUR BRUSHES
WITH INSANITY OVER
THE YEARS...BUT I'VE
NEVER KNOWN YOU
TO BE AN OUTRIGHT
FOOL.





DID THAT
FEEL LIKE
THE FIST OF
A FOOL?

ANY
IMBECILE
CAN MAKE
A FIST.

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THE WISE MAN
WHO ONCE
KNEW WHEN
TO WIELD
IT?



YOU'RE
LOOKING
AT HIM!
HE'S THE
MAN WHO
KILLED THE
DEVIL!

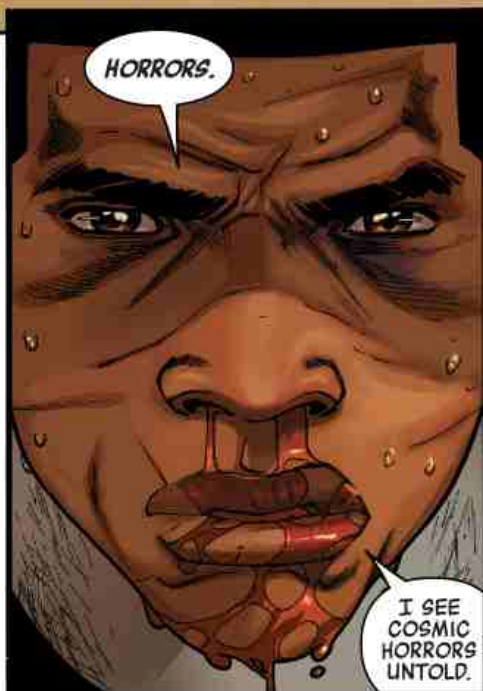


YOU WANT
TO BELIEVE I'M
BEING MIND-
CONTROLLED BY
KHONSHU.

I WANT YOU
TO LOOK INTO MY
EYES, T'CHALLA, AND
TELL ME EXACTLY
WHAT YOU SEE?



HORRORS.



I SEE
COSMIC
HORRORS
UNTOLD.

"AND NOW THE
CRAZY BASTARD
IS *USING* IT."

THIS IS SO
COMPLETELY
WRONG.

I KNOW.
FROM WHAT I HEAR,
MOON KNIGHT'S ALWAYS
BEEN A BIT ODD, BUT I
CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY
HE'D TURN ON EVERYONE
LIKE THIS.

WHAT? NO.
MOON KNIGHT?

I NEVER TRUST
A GUY WHO WEARS
THAT MUCH WHITE.

BUT THAT'S NOT
WHAT I'M TALKING
ABOUT AT ALL.

WE SHOULD
NOT HAVE A
BABY!
LET ALONE
A BABY SUPER-
WEAPON!

I MEAN,
WHAT ARE WE,
THE X-MEN
NOW?

ISN'T THIS
EXACTLY THE SORT
OF THING WE WENT
TO WAR WITH THEM
OVER THAT ONE TIME
WITH THE PHOENIX?

HEY, YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
SAID WE WERE
A FAMILY.



SO DID I.
THEY WERE
THE WORK OF
MEPHISTO.

OR AT LEAST
THEY WOULD'VE
BEEN. THAT'S WHY
HE'S DEAD.

SO NOW
KHONSHU
CLAIMS MEPHISTO'S
THRONE FOR HIMSELF?
BRINGING ABOUT THE
DEVIL'S OWN FASCIST
HELL ON EARTH?

THIS ISN'T
HELL. THIS IS
SALVATION. THIS
IS THE ONLY
CHANCE WE'VE
GOT.

MEPHISTO
WASN'T WORKING
ALONE. I KNOW YOU
KNOW THAT. **YOU**
MORE THAN ANYONE
ALIVE KNOWS THAT.
THE THREAT OF
THOSE HORRORS
HASN'T ENDED.



YOU WEREN'T
GOING TO
STOP THEM.

I SAW IT, CLEAR AS
MOONLIGHT. I SAW THE
AVENGERS LAID TO GRISLY
RUIN. MADE AS IF THEY
NEVER EXISTED.

I DID WHAT
I HAD TO DO.
AND THERE IS STILL
MORE TO BE
DONE.

JOIN US.
COMBINE YOUR
POWER WITH
OURS.



OR WOULD
YOU RATHER I
CALL BACK THE
PRIESTS?

WHY?
AFRAID TO
SWING THE **WHIP**
YOURSELF?



IF I WANT
TO MAKE YOU
BLEED, T'CHALLA...
I WON'T NEED
A WHIP.



NO.
JUST A
MAGIC
ANKH.



MY
LORD.



THAT WAS ME BEING ANNOYING BECAUSE I'M STRESSED THE *#@% OUT!

AND I'M SO DAMN GOOD AT BEING ANNOYING THAT YOU SAYING MY OWN WORDS BACK TO ME JUST NOW IS MAKING EVEN ME ANNOYED!

THE AVENGERS ARE NOT A FAMILY! NOT A TRIBE! NOT A COMMUNE!

THIS IS A JOB!



FOR ONCE WE SORT OF AGREE, TONY STARK.

OH GOD. YOU AGREEING WITH ME IS MAKING ME EVEN MORE FREAKED OUT.

THIS IS A JOB. THE HIGHEST LEVEL JOB ON THE PLANET. THIS IS THE JOB OF SAVING THE PLANET.

RIGHT? AND WHO BRINGS A BABY TO THAT SORT OF JOB? WHO BRINGS A STARBRAND BABY ANYWHERE?

APPARENTLY MORONS LIKE US, THAT'S WHO.



YOU'RE HALF RIGHT.

YOU ARE A MORON, TONY STARK.

BUT THIS ONE TIME, THE BABY IS THE JOB.

THE STARBRAND IS ONE OF THE POWERFUL WEAPONS IN THE COSMOS. ONE WE KNOW BARELY ANYTHING ABOUT.

BUT WE KNOW IT'S BONDED TO THIS LITTLE GIRL.

AND THANKS TO YOUR TRIP TO THE PAST, WE KNOW THE BRAND'S LEGACY GOES BACK AT LEAST A MILLION YEARS. LIKE IT OR NOT, THAT LEGACY'S ENTWINED WITH OUR OWN.

I MET THOSE MILLION-YEAR-OLD LEGACIES FACE-TO-FACE. AND BELIEVE ME, THEY DIDN'T BRING BABIES TO WORK.



WORD FROM THE NECRO-PATROLS. THE FUGITIVES HAVE BEEN SIGHTED.



PERHAPS THAT'S YOUR MISSING FRIEND CAPTAIN AMERICA MAKING A NUISANCE OF HIMSELF.

I'LL DEAL WITH IT.

SPECTOR, LISTEN TO ME...



EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT MEPHISTO, THIS *ISN'T* THE WAY TO SAVE THE WORLD.

YOU HAVE TO SEE THAT THIS IS ABOUT KHONSHU'S LUST FOR *POWER*. AND YOU'VE ALREADY HANDED HIM MORE THAN *ANY* ONE BEING SHOULD HOLD.

CALL FOR HIM. LET US LOOK HIM IN THE EYES TOGETHER AND SEE THE *TRUTH*.



I AM NOT BLIND TO WHAT I'VE DONE, T'CHALLA. I WISH THERE WERE ANOTHER WAY.

BUT ALL OTHER ROADS LEAD TO BURNED WORLDS AND THE SLAUGHTER OF TRILLIONS.

AND MY FAITH IN KHONSHU IS FAR FROM BLIND.



I DIDN'T GIVE HIM ALL THE POWERS.





IT'S EXCRUCIATING
EVERY TIME.

A BURN THAT
REACHES
SOUL DEEP AND
DOESN'T STOP.

I CAN ONLY STAND
IT FOR A FEW MOMENTS
BEFORE I HAVE TO VOMIT
THE BURNING POWER
BACK INTO THE ANKH.

I DON'T KNOW HOW
EVERY GHOST RIDER
WHO EVER LIVED ISN'T
STARK RAVING MAD.

I DON'T KNOW
THAT I'M NOT.

I'LL HAVE TO WORK
FAST. THANKFULLY, SPEED
ISN'T A PROBLEM...

...WHEN YOU'RE
THE FIST OF
VENGEANCE.



GIVE ME
THE BABY,
STARK.

IT'S THE
ONLY WAY TO
END THIS.

PAL, YOU JUST STUFFED
MY FRIEND IN A TRUNK THAT'S
A PORTAL TO HELL! YOU'RE
EVEN LESS QUALIFIED TO HAVE
THIS KID THAN I AM!

STAND THE
HELL DOWN!



HELL?



YOU WANNA
TALK ABOUT
HELL?

GAAAGH!



YOU NEVER ANSWERED OUR QUESTION, PANTHER.



HOW MANY PRIESTS WILL IT TAKE TODAY?

HOW MANY BEFORE YOU GIVE US YOUR--

FIFTY.



BRING ME FIFTY PRIESTS.

AND I'LL HAVE EVERY ONE OF YOU CALLING FOR GOD.



EVEN WITH ALL THE POWER WE'VE AMASSED, IT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. THAT'S WHY WE KEEP FIGHTING. KEEP SEARCHING.

HE'S FREE! MORE PRIESTS! WE NEED MORE... GAAAGH!



KHONSHU! KHONSHU, SAVE US!

THEY CANNOT HIDE IT FROM US FOREVER.



MEANWHILE.
THE SAHARA DESERT.

THAT
RUMBLE...
DON'T TELL
ME...

GET READY
TO FLY.

THEY FOUND US.
AGAIN. HOW COULD
THEY POSSIBLY FIND
US? KHONSHU MUST BE
USING THE EYE OF
AGAMOTTO OR...

IT'S
YOUR TURN.
TAKE HER
AND GO.

THE POWER
OF THE PANTHER
WOULD BE NICE.

I'M NOT
LEAVING YOU,
CAROL.

YOU HAVE
TO! YOU HAVE
TO GET HER OUT
OF HERE,
TONY!

NO! WE'RE
NOT TEARING THIS
FAMILY APART!

FOR THE
LAST DAMN
TIME...

BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO
SAVE THE EARTH FROM
DEMONIC HOLOCAUST...



...IT'S THE
STARBRAND WE
TRULY NEED.

...WE
ARE **NOT** A
FAMILY!

DON'T LISTEN
TO HER, BRANDY.
MOMMY AND DADDY
LOVE EACH OTHER
VERY MUCH.

IF WE
SURVIVE THIS,
I AM GOING TO
MURDER YOU,
TONY STARK!

WE'D DAMN WELL BETTER
SURVIVE. PANTHER'S A
PRISONER. THOR AND
GHOST RIDER HAVE BEEN
TAKEN OUT. AND WE
HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE
OTHERS IN WEEKS.

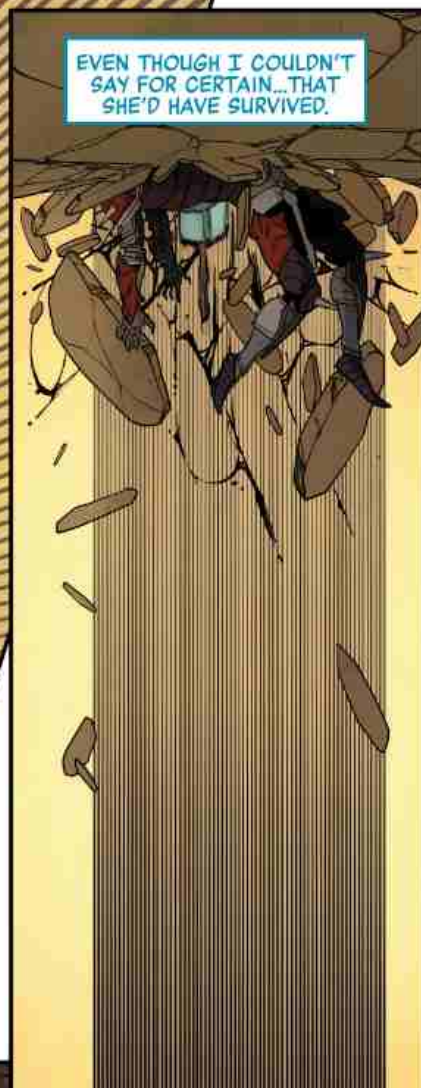
AS FAR AS WE
KNOW, WE'RE
THE LAST
AVENGERS LEFT.

AND ONE OF
US JUST CRAPPED
THEIR PANTS!



I WAS PREPARED TO RIP THE STARBRAND OUT OF THAT CHILD. EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED.

GAAARGGGH!!!



EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN...THAT SHE'D HAVE SURVIVED.



I'VE MADE MY LIVING ON FEAR FOR YEARS NOW. WEARING WHITE SO THE BAD GUYS SEE ME COMING. SO THE FEAR CRIPPLES THEM. EVEN BEFORE MY FISTS DO.

IF YOUR PLAN IS THAT I'LL GET TIRED OF KILLING YOU...

...THEN I HATE TO SAY IT...BUT YOUR PLAN IS WORKING.

NOW I'M THE ONE BEING RULED BY IT. BY MY FEAR OF MEPHISTO.



TELL ME YOU WERE THE LAST! TELL ME HOW THIS IS EVEN POSSIBLE!

HOW IS IT I'VE MURDERED YOU A HUNDRED TIMES TODAY?! AND I'M SOMEHOW MORE AFRAID OF YOU THAN EVER?!

OF ALL THE
MEPHISTOS.

GAAAGGH!
I NEED MORE
POWER! THE STARBRAND.
THE PHOENIX. THE
PANTHER. IT'S THE
ONLY WAY. ONLY
WAY TO...

KHONSHU!

I'M GLAD THERE ARE
BETTER MEN THAN
ME IN THIS WORLD.

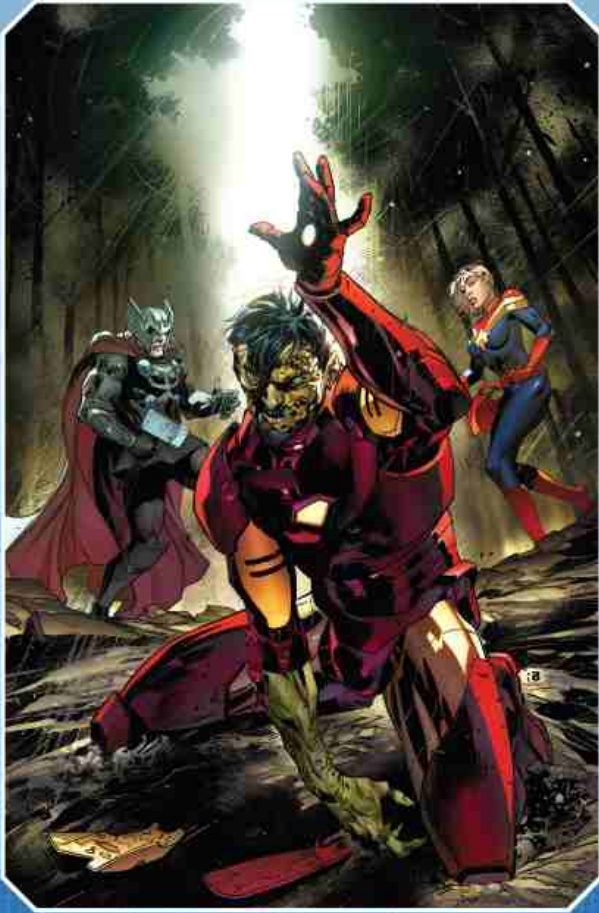
I'M GLAD THERE
ARE AVENGERS.

LET'S HOPE I'VE
HELPED SHOW
THEM THE WAY.

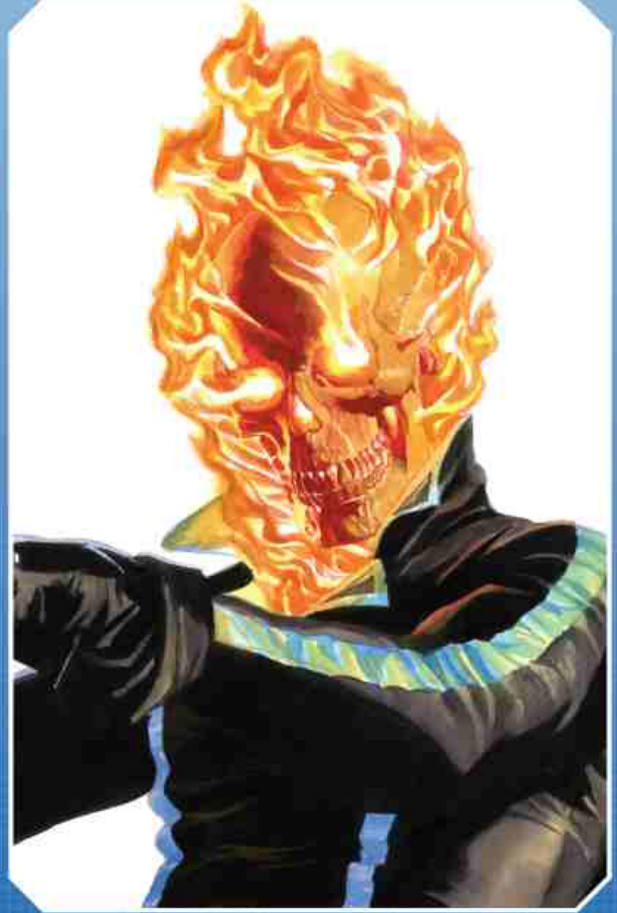
LOOK
ME IN MY
EYES, MOON GOD!
AND I PROMISE
YOU THIS!

ONE OF US
WILL **BREAK**
HERE TODAY!

AND IT WILL
NOT BE THE
**BLACK
PANTHER!**



RYAN BENJAMIN & DAVID CURIEL
33 ZOMBIES VARIANT



ALEX ROSS
36 TIMELESS VARIANT



ALEX ROSS
37 TIMELESS VARIANT



AARON KUDER & MATTHEW WILSON
38 PHOENIX VARIANT

36 THE AGE OF KHONSHU PART 4
MOONS OF FIRE, STARS OF BLOOD,
PANTHERS OF BLACK



EARLIER.

DON'T LET THE NAME
FOOL YOU. THE **MOON'S**
NOT MY USUAL BEAT.

AS **MOON KNIGHT** I KEEP TO
THE PLACES WHERE THE LUNAR
LIGHT DOESN'T REACH. ALLEYWAYS.
SEWERS. BASEMENT BUTCHER
SHOPS. THE DEPTHS OF THE CITY'S
MOST STYGIAN SHADOWS.

PLACES WHERE YOU TEND TO
FIND THE NURSE-MURDERING
HATCHET MEN AND NUNS WITH
CROSSBOWS AND MERCENARIES
WITH THEIR FACES CARVED OFF.

YOU KNOW...**MY** KIND
OF PEOPLE. WHEN IT
COMES TO THE
PEOPLE I PREFER TO
BE **PUNCHING**.

BUT TODAY I DROVE A FLAMING
CAR THROUGH SPACE. SEARCHING
FOR A STAR-POWERED **SUPER**
BABY. SO I CAN MAYBE SAVE THE
PLANET FROM THE **DEVIL**. THE
DEVIL I ALREADY MURDERED
WITH A **MAGIC HAMMER**.

WHAT THE HELL DO I
THINK I'M **DOING?**

I KEEP MUMBLING
THAT SAME QUESTION
OVER AND OVER INTO
THE EMPTY WHITENESS
OF MY HOLY SHROUD.
BUT MY **5%&#** OF A
GOD DOESN'T SEEM
TO BE LISTENING.

SO I CLOSE MY EYES
AND I ASK THE
DARKNESS... AND THE
BLOODRED ANSWER
COMES ROARING BACK AT
ME, FLECKED WITH FIRE.

YOU'RE
PRAYING TO
THE **WRONG** GOD,
SPECTOR.



NOW.

WISH TO GOD I COULD
JUST GO BACK TO THE
MOON-DAMNED ALLEYS.

BACK TO THE SWEET COMFORT OF
BLUDGEONING SOMEONE WHO YOU KNOW
DAMN WELL DESERVES EVERY BROKEN
BONE YOU'LL LEAVE IN THE BLOODY
SLOP THAT USED TO BE THEIR FACE.

BUT THIS FIGHT IS TOO
PROFOUND, TOO INFINITE,
TO STOP PUNCHING NOW.

STOP THIS,
MOON KNIGHT,
I AM **NOT** YOUR
ENEMY!

NO MATTER HOW
IT BLOODIES
MY KNUCKLES.

HNNGH!

OR WHOSE
BLOOD IT IS.

SPECTOR,
YOU FOOL, **OPEN**
YOUR EYES! BEFORE
I'M FORCED TO
CLOSE THEM FOR
GOOD!

A LIAR UNTIL
THE VERY END,
AREN'T YOU?!



EARLIER.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

YOU'RE PRAYING TO THE **WRONG GOD**, MARC SPECTOR. THE **WRONG LIGHT** IN THE SKY.

WHO SAID I WAS PRAYING?

I DID. I CAN **SEE** YOUR PRAYERS. LIKE MOTHS IN THE MOONLIGHT. AND I SEE THE HOT WINDS OF HORROR THAT DRIVE THEM.

YOU'RE **RIGHT** TO BE AFRAID, FIST OF KHONSHU. OF THE DEVILS SPINNING BLOODY WEBS BETWEEN THE YEARS. BETWEEN WORLDS AND REALITIES.

AND YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE **KEY** TO STOPPING THEM. THE GREAT **WEAPONS** FROM THE DAWN OF MAN.

I SEE YOU'RE ALREADY WIELDING ONE. JUST NOT THE **RIGHT ONE**.

WHO SENT YOU HERE? ARE YOU ONE OF T'CHALLA'S?

I AM **ALWAYS** HERE. HERE AND NOWHERE ELSE. THE UNBREAKABLE COSMIC CHAINS SEE TO THAT.

AND I AM... OF NO ONE AND NOTHING.

NOT ANYMORE.

WAIT... I **KNOW** YOU.

DO YOU? OR DO YOU SEE...

"...ONLY WHAT
KHONSHU WANTS
YOU TO SEE?"

RRRRGGGGH!!!

I DON'T
ALWAYS
BELIEVE IN
MYSELF.

AND I ALMOST
NEVER BELIEVE IN
MY GOD ANYMORE.

YOU'RE
BLINDED BY
YOUR RAGE, MARC!
THIS ISN'T YOU!
ANY OF THE
YOUS!

BUT I'VE SEEN THE
COMING HELL. A HELL
THAT BURNS ON INTO
INFINITY. AND I
BELIEVE IN THAT HELL
WITH ALL MY HEART.

STOP
USING MY
NAME LIKE
YOU KNOW
ME!

I BELIEVE I'M DOING THE
RIGHT THING. THE ONLY
WAY I KNOW HOW.

JUST
SHUT UP
AND STAY
DEAD!

THE
BLOODY
WAY.

I KNOW
YOU.

BUT
YOU CAN'T
BE HERE.

BECAUSE
I SAW YOU
DIE.*

RIGHT
HERE, ON THE
MOON.

WHEN
NICK FURY'S
SINS FINALLY
BLEW HIM ALL
TO HELL.

YES, THE
HOWLING
COMMANDO
CALLED NICHOLAS
J. FURY IS LONG
PASSED.

BUT THE
SILENT WATCHER
KNOWN AS
THE UNSEEN
LIVES ON.

IF YOU
CAN CALL
"FORCED TO WATCH
THE EVENTS OF THE
WORLD UNFOLD WITHOUT
BEING ABLE TO
INTERVENE IN ANY
MEANINGFUL WAY"
A FORM OF
LIVING.

I CALL
IT...MY
UNENDING
CURSE.

BUT THAT
CURSE IS TO
YOUR BENEFIT THIS
DAY, KNIGHT OF MOONS.
FOR I TOO HAVE SEEN
THE WORK OF THE
COUNCIL OF RED. THEIR
PLANS BURROWING
THROUGH SPACE AND
TIME LIKE STARVING
MAGGOTS.

I CAN
SHOW YOU HOW
TO PRAY FOR SALVATION.
BUT I WARN YOU...IT
WON'T BE TO ANY MOONS
OF FIRE OR STARS
OF BLOOD.

TO
SAVE THE
EARTH...

*IN ORIGINAL SIN.
--TOM

"...YOU MUST PRAY TO THE
THING THAT EATS THEM."

I KNOW,
SPECTOR.

I KNOW
WHAT IT IS
YOU FEAR. WHO
YOU FEAR.

UUGH!

AND I KNOW
IT'S DRIVEN
YOU MAD. I CAN
HELP YOU.

WAKANDA
HAS MADE MAJOR
ADVANCEMENTS IN
TERMS OF MENTAL
HEALTH. WE CAN HELP
EACH OTHER IN THIS
FIGHT, IF YOU'LL
JUST--

PANTHER WEBS
RAPIDLY EXPANDING
VIBRANIUM-BASED
FOAM INCAPACITANT.

NO!

YOU THINK
I'D BELIEVE
A WORD
YOU SAY?

YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
DID THIS!

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO WANTS
TO BURN THE WORLD!
AND I'M THE CRAZY
BASTARD WHO'S GOING
TO STOP YOU,
MEPHISTO!

MEPHISTO?
OH,
SPECTOR.





YOU PANTHERS
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
IN LEAGUE WITH
FALSE GODS AND
DEVILS!

BUT NONE
OF THEM CAN
SAVE YOU
NOW!



WHAT?!



HELLO, OLD
FRIEND.

MY
HAMMER...
HOW...

MJOLNIR
KNOWS MY
TRIBE. KNOWS
US WELL.

THE BLOOD OF THE
PANTHER KINGS FLOWS
THROUGH MY VEINS. AND I
ASSURE YOU, WE HAVE
ALL BEEN FIGHTING
MEPHISTO...



"...FOR A VERY
LONG TIME."



NO! MJOLNIR, RETURN TO ME! YOU ARE MADE OF MOON ROCK! YOU ARE KHONSHU'S TO COMMAND!

YOU MAY HAVE POWER OVER THE URU, BUT NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE STORM THAT DWELLS INSIDE. MUCH LIKE THOSE ANKHS YOU WEAR AROUND YOUR NECK.

THE GREAT WEAPONS OF THIS PLANET WILL NOT BE TAMED BY YOU.

BUT PERHAPS THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE **RELEASED**. BY THE HAND OF AN ALLY.

NO!!!

COME TO THE KING OF WAKANDA. AND BE **FREE**.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

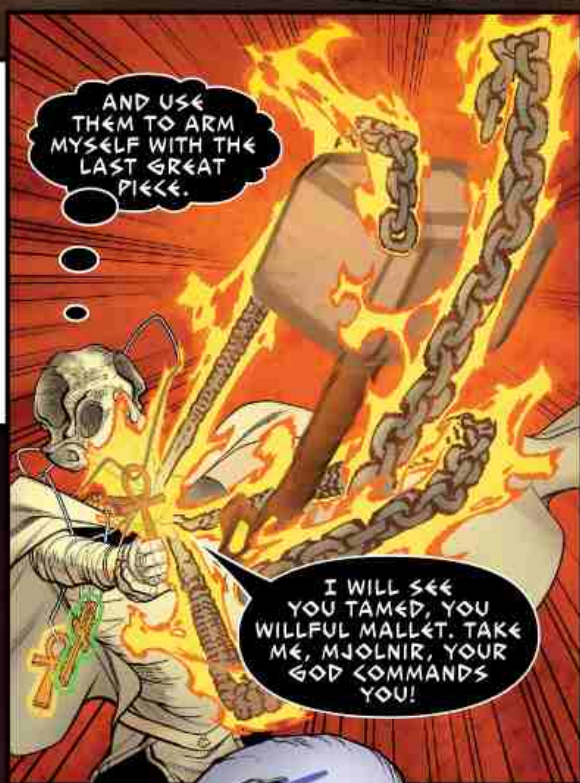


THE **HELLFIRE** HEARS YOUR CALL.

WHICH IS WHY I WON'T USE IT TO KILL YOU.

I'LL DO IT AS WHAT I AM.

A **FIST**.



WAKANDAN
RHINO HORN
ENERGY DAGGER.

MY BRAIN IS ON
FIRE, AND NOW
SO'S MY FACE.

I KNOW
EXACTLY WHO
YOU ARE,
DEVIL!

I MAYBE THINK
I PROBABLY KNOW
WHO THIS IS.

THE FIST OF
KHONSHU.

BUT MAYBE
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHO THE
HELL I AM!

DO I KNOW
WHO I AM?

THE KNEE OF
KHONSHU.

I CUT THE
FACES OFF DEVILS!
I POUND THEM INTO
THE ASPHALT UNTIL
THEY'RE NOTHING BUT
GOOEY PUDDLES!

SOUTH SIDE
SHIN
DESKINNER.

ANGRY KID ON CHICAGO'S
SOUTH SIDE. DEAD SOLDIER
AT THE FOOT OF A GOD.
HERO COVERED IN SCARS.

AND YOU,
MEPHISTO, YOU'RE
JUST ANOTHER DEVIL
FOR ME TO--

GUUGH!

SO BE
IT, MOON
KNIGHT.

REPEAT CUSTOMER
AT MERCY HOSPITAL
FOR THE MENTALLY ILL.

FIST OF
VIBRANIUM.



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WHATEVER I NEEDED TO BE TO FINISH THE JOB.

HUNGRY LION ORGAN SEEKER.

TO SAVE THE WORLD... YOUR DEVIL I SHALL BE.



LEAPING BUFFALO UPPERCUT ELBOW STRIKE.



IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THE WINDS OF THE SERENGETI.



I'M NOT ENOUGH.

THE FIST OF KHONSHU.



THAT'S WHY I KEEP PRAYING.

DRUNKEN ELEPHANT HEADBUTT.



PRAYING FOR A NEW ME.

THE FIST OF KHONSHU.



HEH.
GOOD LUCK.

YOU'RE PRAYING TO THE WRONG GOD, SPECTOR.

SOMETIMES YOU'VE GOT TO PRAY UNTIL IT HURTS.

FLYING LEOPARD CLAW KICK.

JUST TO SHOW YOUR GOD HOW MUCH YOU MEAN IT.

BLACK MAMBA SPINE STRIKE.

HIPPO FIST.

IS THAT ENOUGH, SPECTOR?

GOD.

ENOUGH FOR YOU TO SEE HOW YOUR GOD HAS BLINDED YOU?

I KNOW IT'S YOU, T'CHALLA.

GP-TAW

CAN'T STOP PRAYING NOW.

I STOPPED THINKING YOU WERE MEPHISTO... A FEW DOZEN PUNCHES AGO.

THEN WHY ARE YOU WASTING OUR TIME?

OR WHOEVER THE HELL IT IS YOU'RE TRYING TO REACH.

YOU REALIZE KHONSHU HAS GONE AFTER THE STARBRAND CHILD TO--

THE RAGE OF MANY WILDBEESTS.

THE FIST OF KHONSHU.

GOTTA PRAY UNTIL IT BLEEDS.

PRAY
UNTIL IT
BURNS.

HER VITAL
SIGNS ARE
NORMAL. OR
AT LEAST AS
NORMAL AS
SHE GETS.

LOOKS LIKE OUR
STARBRAND
KID HANDLES SPACE
TRAVEL LIKE A PRO.

THERE'S AN
OLD **ALPHA FLIGHT**
SAFE HOUSE NEAR THE
MARTIAN ICE CAPS.
WE'LL HOLE UP
THERE.

I DON'T CARE
WHERE YOU TAKE
HER. AS LONG AS
IT'S AWAY FROM
EARTH.

AND FROM
ME.

TONY, WHEN
THIS IS OVER, YOU
AND I ARE GONNA HAVE
A SERIOUS CONVERSATION
ABOUT WHATEVER THE HELL
HAPPENED TO YOU IN THE
STONE AGE. AND BY SERIOUS,
I MEAN I WILL **BEAT** IT
OUT OF YOU IF I
HAVE TO.

CAROL, I'M THE **SMARTEST**
HUMAN EITHER ONE OF US
HAS EVER MET, SO BELIEVE
ME WHEN I TELL YOU...THIS
IS ALL FAR FROM OVER.

IT'S BARELY
EVEN BEGUN.

DO YOU FEEL THAT?
MY GOLD FILLINGS ARE
VIBRATING. ONLY TIME
I EVER FEEL THAT IS...

CAROL...
DO YOU HEAR
THUNDER?



GAARGH! THAT
BURNS! HOW CAN
ANYTHING BURN
ME, I'M--

GIVE ME
THE CHILD AND
YOUR GOD WILL
GRACIOUSLY ALLOW
YOU BOTH ONE
FINAL PRAYER!

YOU MAY
PRAY TO THE GOD
OF VENGEANCE...
FOR A QUICK
BURNING!

AAARGGH!

CAROL, WHAT ARE
YOU DOING? LEAVE
ME! GET THE BABY
OUT OF HERE!

I'M TRYING,
BUT...BUT I
CAN'T MOVE
HER!

THAT'S IT. PRIESTS FROM THE TRAIN SAID THAT PYRAMID'S WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING T'CHALLA.

IF HE'S NOT ALREADY DEAD.

RRRRGGGGH!

IF HE IS, GOD HELP US, THEN WE EARN OUR NAME.

AVENGERS... ASSEMBLE!



HEY, DON'T GO ASSEMBLING WITHOUT ME, GUYS.

ROBBIE? YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE FOR THIS FIGHT. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK AT THE HOSPITAL.

WELL, IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, CAP...



...I DID BRING A BIT OF THE HOSPITAL WITH ME. AND IF YOU THOUGHT I WAS GONNA MISS THIS FIGHT, WELL... NO OFFENSE...



RRRRGGGGH!!!

DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S HAPPENING.
I CAN'T...STEER
THIS BABY!

KHONSHU HAS
LOST HIMSELF
TO FEAR.

BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN HE'S WRONG.
MORE POWER IS NEEDED.

THE CHILD!
I CAN FEEL
THE POWER OF
THE STARBRAND!
IT MUST BE MINE!
OR WORLDS
WILL DIE!

OH NO.
SERIOUSLY?

WHAT IN THE
HELL IS THAT
DOING HERE?

THAT'S WHY I HAD
TO PRAY. HAD TO SHOW
MY SACRIFICE.

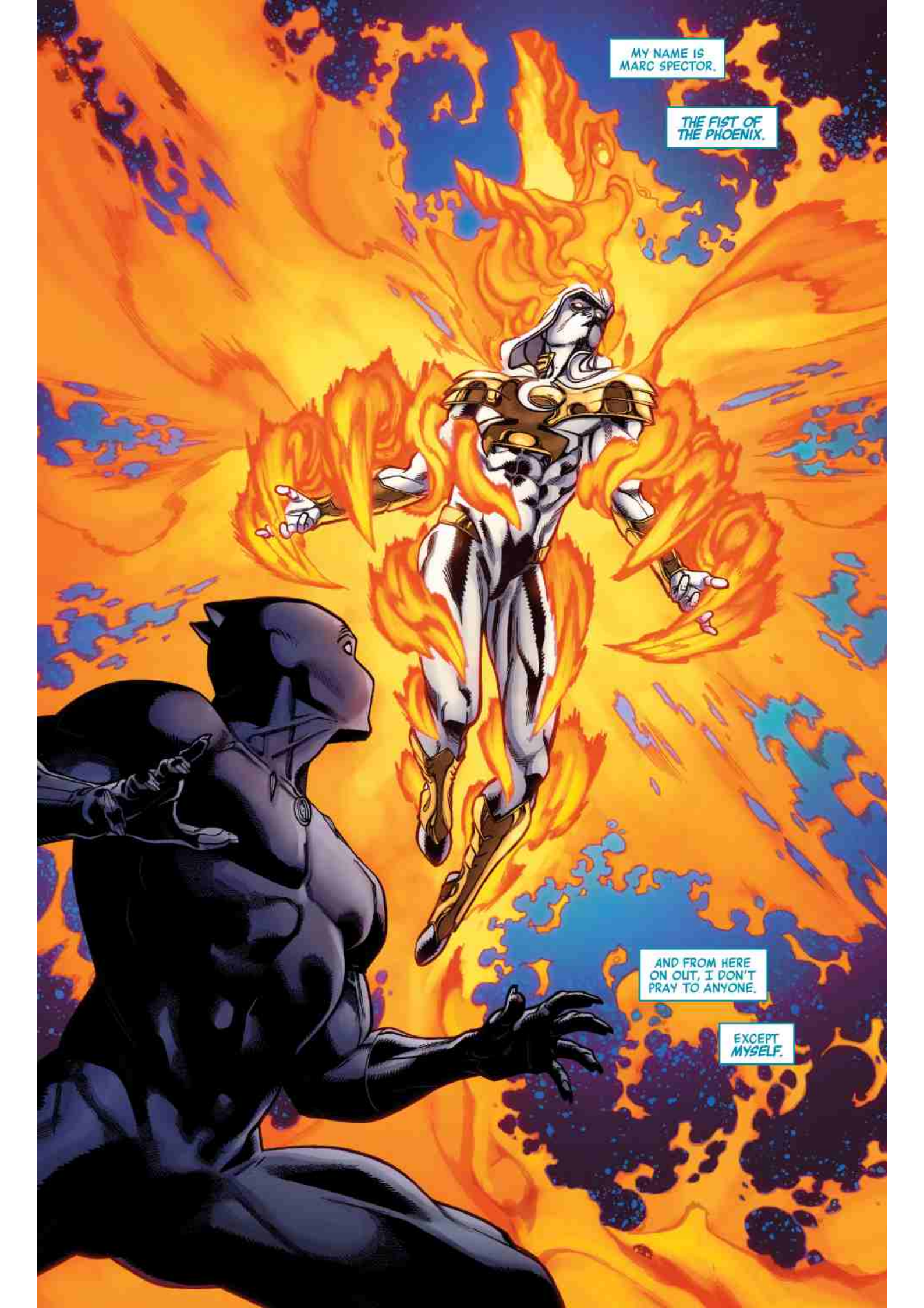
LOOK, I'M
JUST A DAYWALKER,
BUT YOU ASK ME, THERE'S
NO WAY WE'RE STOPPING A
MOON GOD WHEN THE SKY
IS FULL OF NOTHING BUT
MOONS. WE WANNA
HURT HIM, WE NEED TO
GET THE SUN BACK
IN THE--

THOUGH NOT
TO THE MOON
OR THE STARS.

GAAAGGGH!

TO THE
THING THAT
EATS THEM.

AMEN.



MY NAME IS
MARC SPECTOR.

THE FIST OF
THE PHOENIX.

AND FROM HERE
ON OUT, I DON'T
PRAY TO ANYONE.

EXCEPT
MYSELF.

37 THE AGE OF KHONSHU CONCLUSION
PHOENIX: MOONSONG



IT'S LIKE IN
MY DREAMS.

THE ONES THAT WOKE
ME SWEAT-DRENCHED
AND WRITHING EVERY
NIGHT FOR WEEKS.

THAT LED ME TO BETRAY MY
FORMER ALLIES, AND TO
BRING THE AGE OF KHONSHU
TO WRETCHED LIFE.

GAAGH! IT'S
TRUE WHAT THEY
SAY ABOUT THE TODDLER
YEARS! COME BACK
HERE, BABYBRAND!

ONLY THIS
IS NO DREAM.

THERE'S A STAR THAT'S
ACTUALLY SCREAMING,
AND MOONS BEGINNING
TO CRACK LIKE EGGS.

AND THE GOD WHO RAISED ME
FROM THE DEAD SUCCUMBING
TO FULL HOWLING MADNESS.

DAMN THE
STARBRAND! THE
MOON MUST BE THE
BRIGHTEST IN ALL
THE--

GAAAGH!!!

THE KID'S BURNING
LIKE THE SUN! AND THE
STARLIGHT'S WEAKENING
THE MOON GOD!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

AND I'M BURNING, INSIDE
AND OUT, WITH A FIRE
THAT CAN'T BE QUENCHED.

THE IRON FIST
OF SHOU-LAO.

UGH!

NO! I
STILL HAVE MORE
POWER THAN ALL OF
YOU AVENGERS
COMBINED!

THE MILLION-
YEAR SUPERMOON
HAS RISEN! THE AGE
OF KHONSHU WILL
SHINE ETERNAL!

EXCEPT BY
UTTER FLAMING
DESTRUCTION.

AND SO I LISTEN TO THE WHITE-HOT
VOICES SEARING INSIDE MY SKULL.
AND FOR ONCE, THEY ALL AGREE.

KHONSHU!
YOU WANNA FACE
THE DEVIL?

THEN
GO TO
HELL!

GODS AND
DEVILS.

WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE?

#%\$@
THEM ALL.

WHY DO FOOLS ALWAYS
TRUST THEIR GODS, NO
MATTER HOW MANY
TIMES THEY'VE BEEN
LET DOWN BY THEM?

FOOLS
LIKE ME.

YOU GOTTA
BE KIDDING
ME, NOT
THIS TOO.

I'M NOT
HERE TO FIGHT
YOU, AVENGERS.
NOT ANYMORE.

BECAUSE WE *NEED* TO
BELIEVE IN GODS. IN
DIVINE ORDER. TO HAVE
THIS %@#&\$% OF
A UNIVERSE MAKE ANY
MOON-DAMNED SENSE.

TAKE THE
STARCHILD AWAY.
I MEAN HER NO
HARM.

BUT I
SENSE SHE
DOES NOT FEEL
THE SAME.



A large panel showing Iron Man in a red and gold suit, floating in space. He has multiple arms, some holding large cannons and others holding smaller weapons. The background is a starry space with blue energy lines.

IT'S FAR TOO FRIGHTENING TO ACCEPT...
THAT WE LIVE AT THE *WHIMS* OF CHAOS.
AND OF OUR OWN PATHETIC *SELVES*.

ALL RIGHT, DROP
THE PHOENIX
AND BACK AWAY,
SPECTOR!

OR GET READY TO
LEARN WHAT A FEW
MILLION DOLLARS'
WORTH OF ARMAGEDDON
TASTES LIKE! YOU'VE GOT
UNTIL THE COUNT OF--

A panel showing the Phoenix character in a white and gold suit, standing in a field of intense orange and yellow flames. In the background, there are faint silhouettes of other figures.

OUR GODS
ARE WHAT WE
MAKE THEM.

I SAID
GO!

A panel showing the Phoenix character in a white and gold suit, standing in a field of intense orange and yellow flames. In the background, there are faint silhouettes of other figures.

AND SO THE
HELL ARE WE.

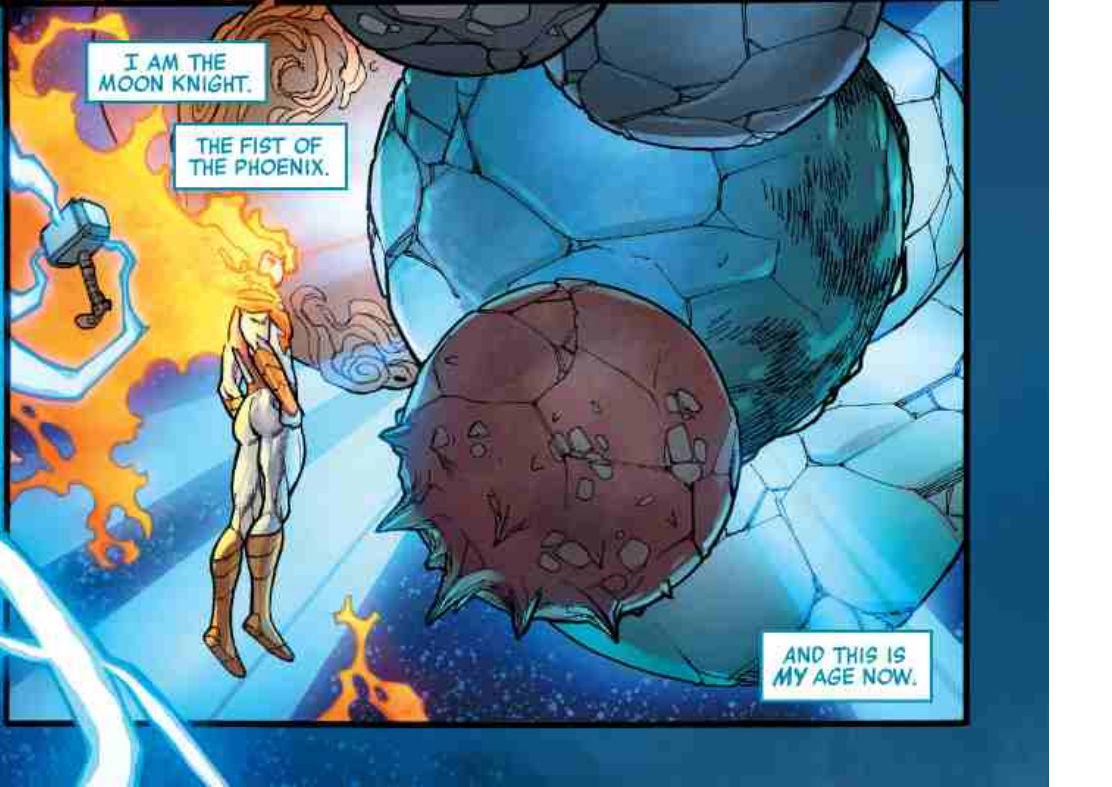
I DON'T NEED
KHONSHU.

A panel showing the Phoenix character in a white and gold suit, standing in a blue field with white lightning bolts. A large, dark, rocky object is visible in the background.

DON'T NEED ANY
OF THE *OLD* GODS.

I AM THE
MOON KNIGHT.

THE FIST OF
THE PHOENIX.

A panel showing the Phoenix character in a white and gold suit, standing in a blue field with white lightning bolts. A large, dark, rocky object is visible in the background.

AND THIS IS
MY AGE NOW.

NEW THEBES CITY.



LORD
KHONSHU!!!

THE
AVENGERS HAVE
COME!

THE MOON
KNIGHT...HAS
BETRAYED
US.

DON'T ANY
OF THEM SEE...
THAT I AM ONLY TRYING
TO SAVE THE WORLD.
THIS...IS ALL THE WORK
OF MEPHISTO.

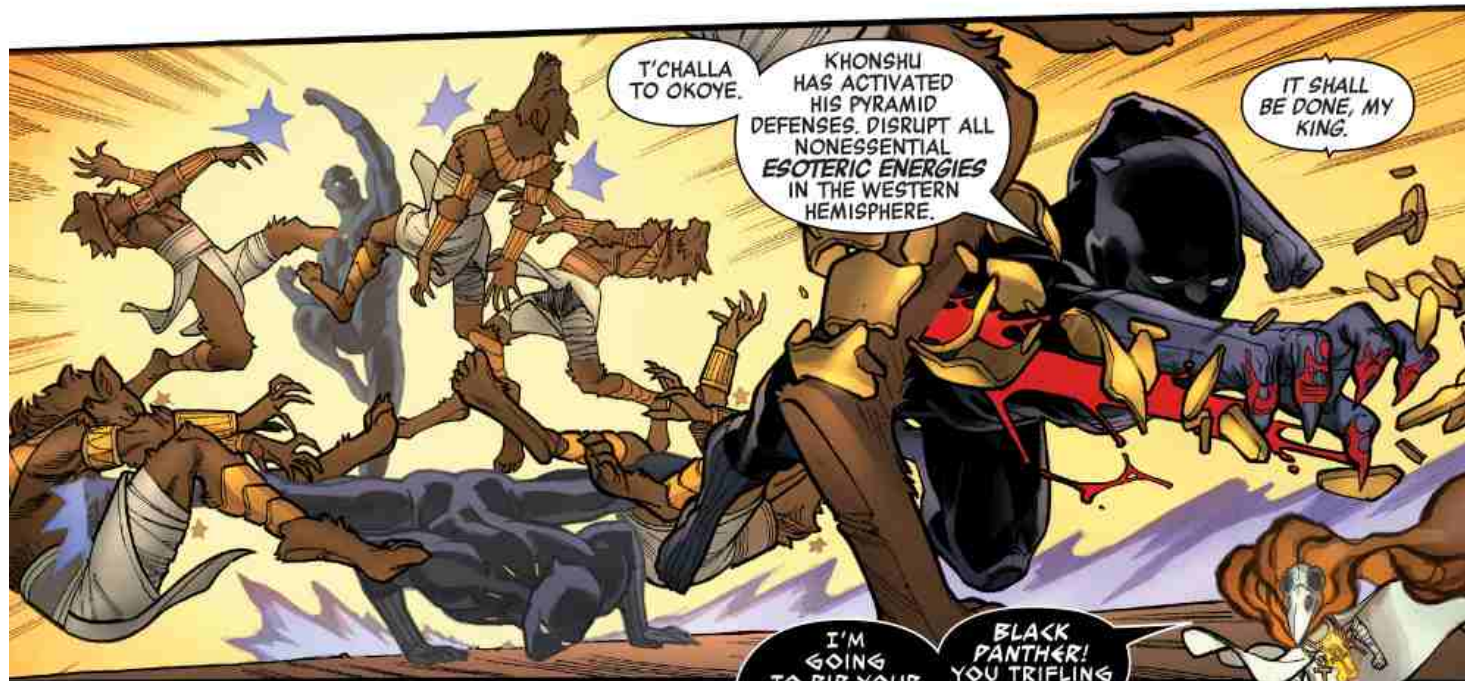
"UNLEASH EVERYTHING.
THE FULL POWER OF THE
NIGHT TEMPLES.

"EVERY LAST DISCIPLE OF
KHONSHU. MUMMIES AND
MOON PRIESTS AND THE
WEREWOLF GUARD.



"WE WILL SCRAPE THIS
WORLD AS BARREN AS
THE MOON IF WE MUST.
AND START AGAIN.

"OR PERHAPS JUST
ENJOY THE QUIET FOR
A FEW MILLION YEARS."



T'CHALLA
TO OKOYE.

KHONSHU
HAS ACTIVATED
HIS PYRAMID
DEFENSES. DISRUPT ALL
NONESSENTIAL
ESOTERIC ENERGIES
IN THE WESTERN
HEMISPHERE.

IT SHALL
BE DONE, MY
KING.

I'M
GOING
TO RIP YOUR
MEASLY POWER
FROM YOUR
CHARRED
CORPSE!

BLACK
PANTHER!
YOU TRIFLING
GNAT!

NOT ALL
POWERS ARE
WEAPONS THAT CAN
BE **STOLEN**.

I SEE WITH
THE EYES OF
GENERATIONS. MY
BLOOD FLOWS WITH
THE SPIRITS OF FIVE
THOUSAND KINGS
AND QUEENS.



BUT I AM
STILL JUST
A MAN.

A MAN OF
WAKANDA.

AND TODAY
THAT WILL BE
ENOUGH.





KHONSHU
WAS BORN TO
WIELD THE FURY
OF THE GHOST
RIDER!

AND AS
THE MOONS
ARE MY WITNESS
I WILL UNLEASH
THE SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE UPON
THIS EARTH
AS NEVER
BE--



GAAAAARRGGGH!



YEAH, ABOUT
THAT POWER.
HURTS LIKE HELL,
DON'T IT?

BUT TURNS
OUT IT HURTS
EVEN MORE WHEN
IT'S RIPPED
OUTTA YA.

SO I'LL BE
TAKING MY
HELL-DAMNED
RIDE BACK
NOW.

WE WILL
BE TAKING IT
ALL BACK. EVERY
PRIMORDIAL
POWER YOU'VE
STOLEN, MOON
GOD.

STAND WITH
ME, ROBERTO
REYES.

YOU
BET I WILL,
BOSS.

IRON FIST
OF K'UN-LUN,
HEAR THE CALL OF
A SOUL ALLIED
OF OLD.

NO...

MYSTIC
ARTS OF THE
SORCERER
SUPREME, HEAR
THE CALL OF A
SOUL ALLIED
OF OLD.

STOP IT!
THEY'RE
MINE!

GHOST
RIDER.

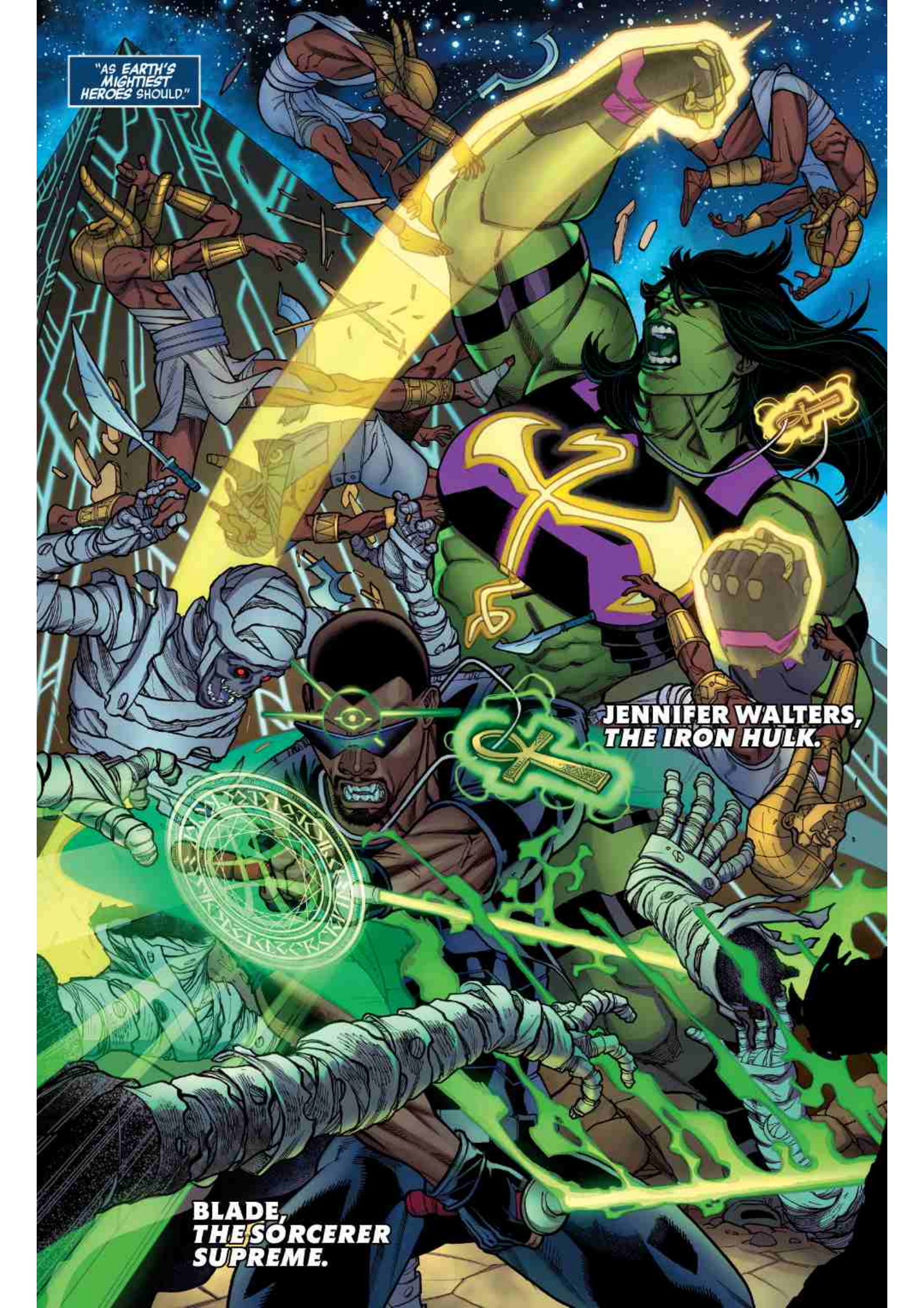
DADDY'S
HOME.

AAAAARRRGH!!!

"WHERE
IS HE?!"







"AS EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST
HEROES SHOULD."

**JENNIFER WALTERS,
THE IRON HULK.**

**BLADE,
THE SORCERER
SUPREME.**





THE GREAT
COSMIC
INFERNO
EXPLODING
INSIDE ME.

WHAT IF
I WERE...

...TO LET
IT OUT?

BUT ALL I
HEAR IS THE
BURNING
INSIDE MY
HEAD.

WHAT IF I
PURGED THE
EARTH FROM
ABOVE?

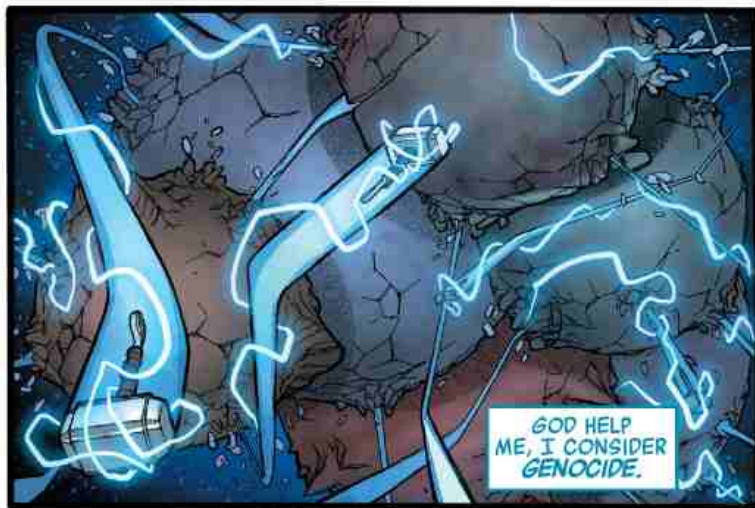
LIKE A
GREAT MOON
OF FIRE.

WHAT IF I
DESTROYED
THE DEFORMED
PARASITE THAT
IS HUMAN
CIVILIZATION?

AND FROM THE
ASH THAT
REMAINED...GREW
SOMETHING **NEW**.

I WOULD BE
THE HERO.
WHO SAVED
THE WORLD.

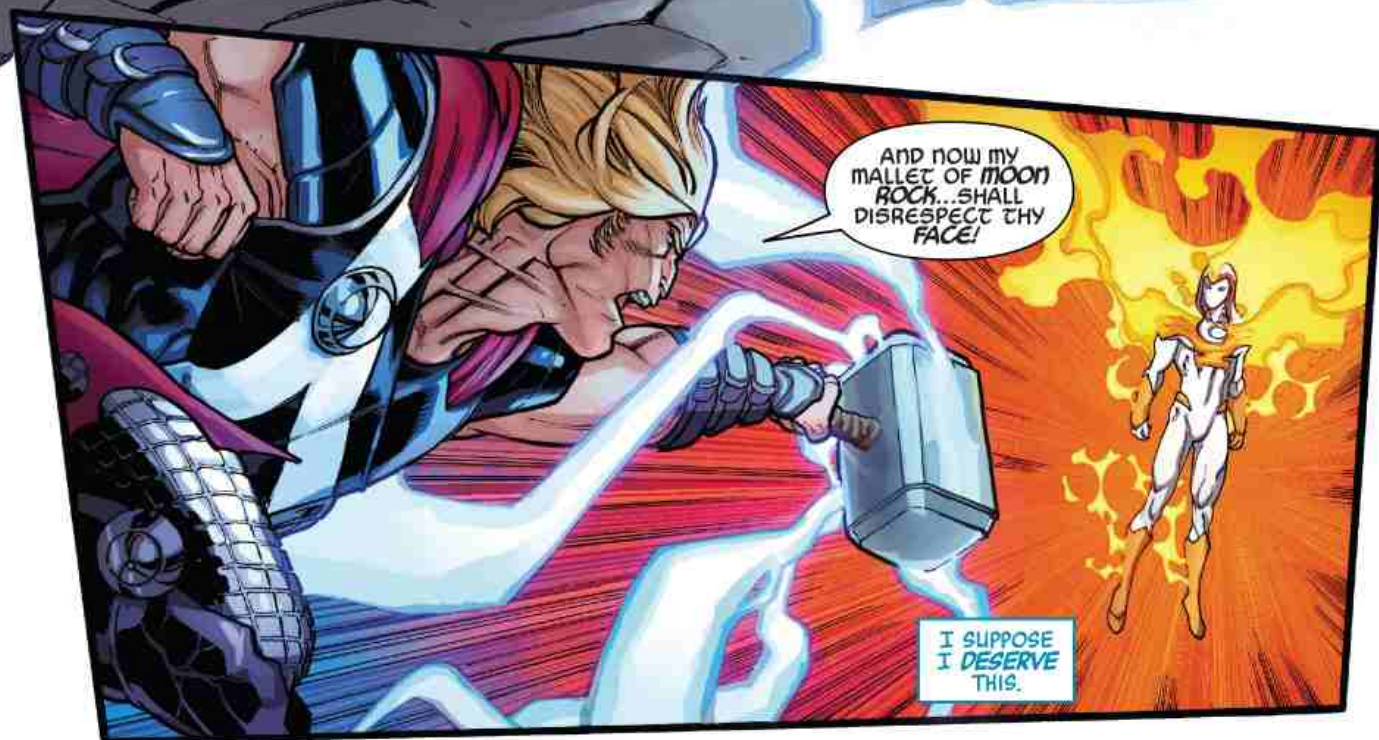
BY SETTING
IT **ABLAZE**.





KNIGHT OF
MOONS!

YOU HAVE
DISRESPECTED
THE HAMMER OF
ALL-FATHER
THOR!



AND NOW MY
MALLET OF MOON
ROCK...SHALL
DISRESPECT THY
FACE!

I SUPPOSE
I DESERVE
THIS.



"THE DEVIL...
WILL KILL
YOU ALL."



A DEVIL
FOR EACH OF
YOU. A DEVIL FOR
EVERY WORLD.

I FAILED
AND...I AM A
GOD, OLDER THAN
THE CELESTIAL MISTAKE
THAT IS YOUR ENTIRE
HUMAN RACE.

WHAT
HOPE DO YOU
LOT HAVE?

YOU FAILED,
KHONSHU...



...BECAUSE
WE'RE THE PEOPLE
WHO HOLD GODS
ACCOUNTABLE.

YOU ARE
HEREBY UNDER
ARREST, IN THE
NAME OF THE
EARTH...

...AND ITS
AVENGERS.

IT'S
DONE.

I'M JUST A
MAN AGAIN.

A MAN
WITHOUT
A GOD.

UULUGH.

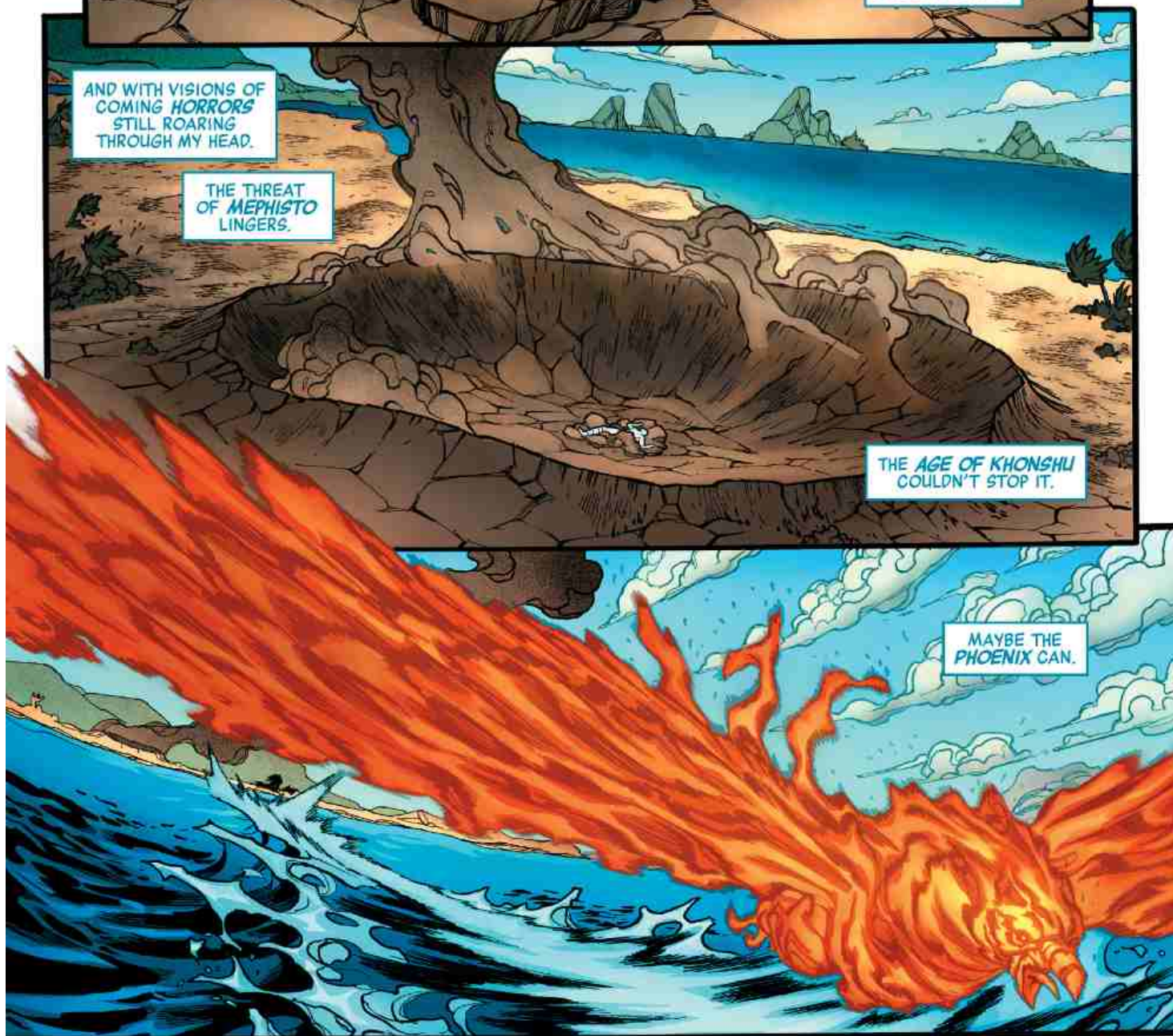
AND WITH
VERY MANY
BROKEN BONES.

AND WITH VISIONS OF
COMING HORRORS
STILL ROARING
THROUGH MY HEAD.

THE THREAT
OF MEPHISTO
LINGERS.

THE AGE OF KHONSHU
COULDN'T STOP IT.

MAYBE THE
PHOENIX CAN.



THE MOON. THE SUMMER HOUSE.

"YOU FELT
IT TOO."



GOT SIX
OF 'EM RIGHT
HERE.

SNIKT

SNIKT



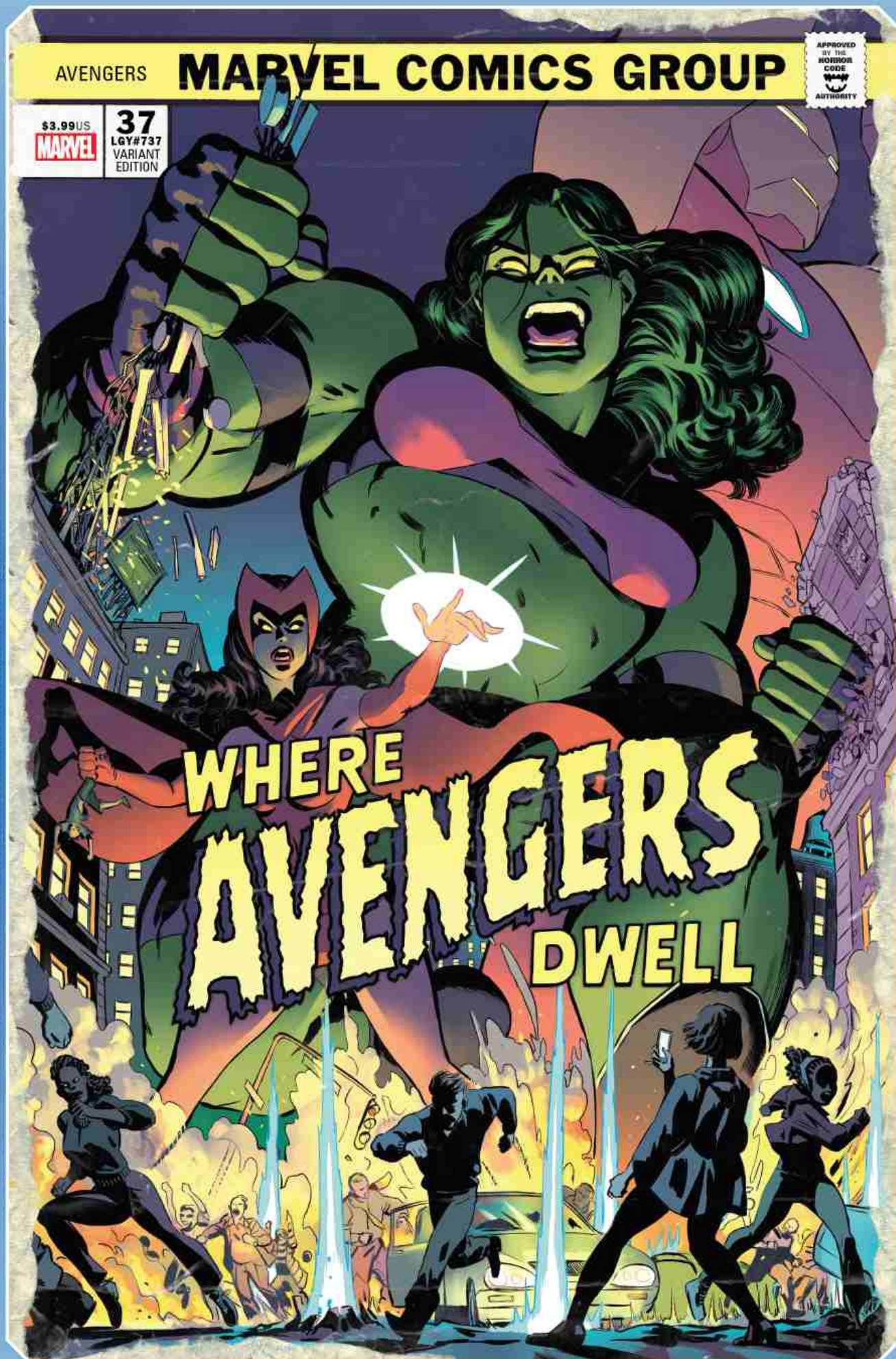
AVENGERS

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37
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VARIANT
EDITION



JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ & ÁLVARO LÓPEZ
37 HORROR VARIANT

**38 THE FLY THAT LAID
A BILLION MAGGOTS**



A FEW CENTURIES AGO.
SOMEWHERE IN THE KANSAS TERRITORY.

LIKE MANY STORIES,
THIS ONE *BEGINS*...
WITH A MAN AT A
CROSSROADS.

PLEASE...
WE'RE
DYIN'.

WE COME
ALL THIS WAY...
FOR A NEW START.
BUT NOW WE'RE
STRANDED,
STARVIN'.

CAN'T EVEN
EAT THE MULE.
WAS SOMEHOW PLUMB
FULL OF *MAGGOTS*
SOON AS IT
FELL OVER.

WE'S ALL
GOING TO *DIE*
OUT HERE. IN THE
MIDDLE OF...A BUNCH
GRASS AND SNOW
AND NOTHIN'. IT
CAN'T END
LIKE THIS.

PLEASE...
SOMEONE...HEAR
MY PRAYER.

I'LL DO
ANYTHING FOR
MY FAMILY TO
SURVIVE THIS. TO
THRIVE. ANYTHING
AT ALL.

"ANYTHING,"
YOU SAY?



YOU'VE
GOT A
DEAL.



LIKE ANY DEAL MADE WITH
A DESPERATE MAN AT A
LONESOME CROSSROADS,
THIS ONE REQUIRED A BIT
OF COLLATERAL.

PA?
DID YOU FIND
US FOOD?



PA?

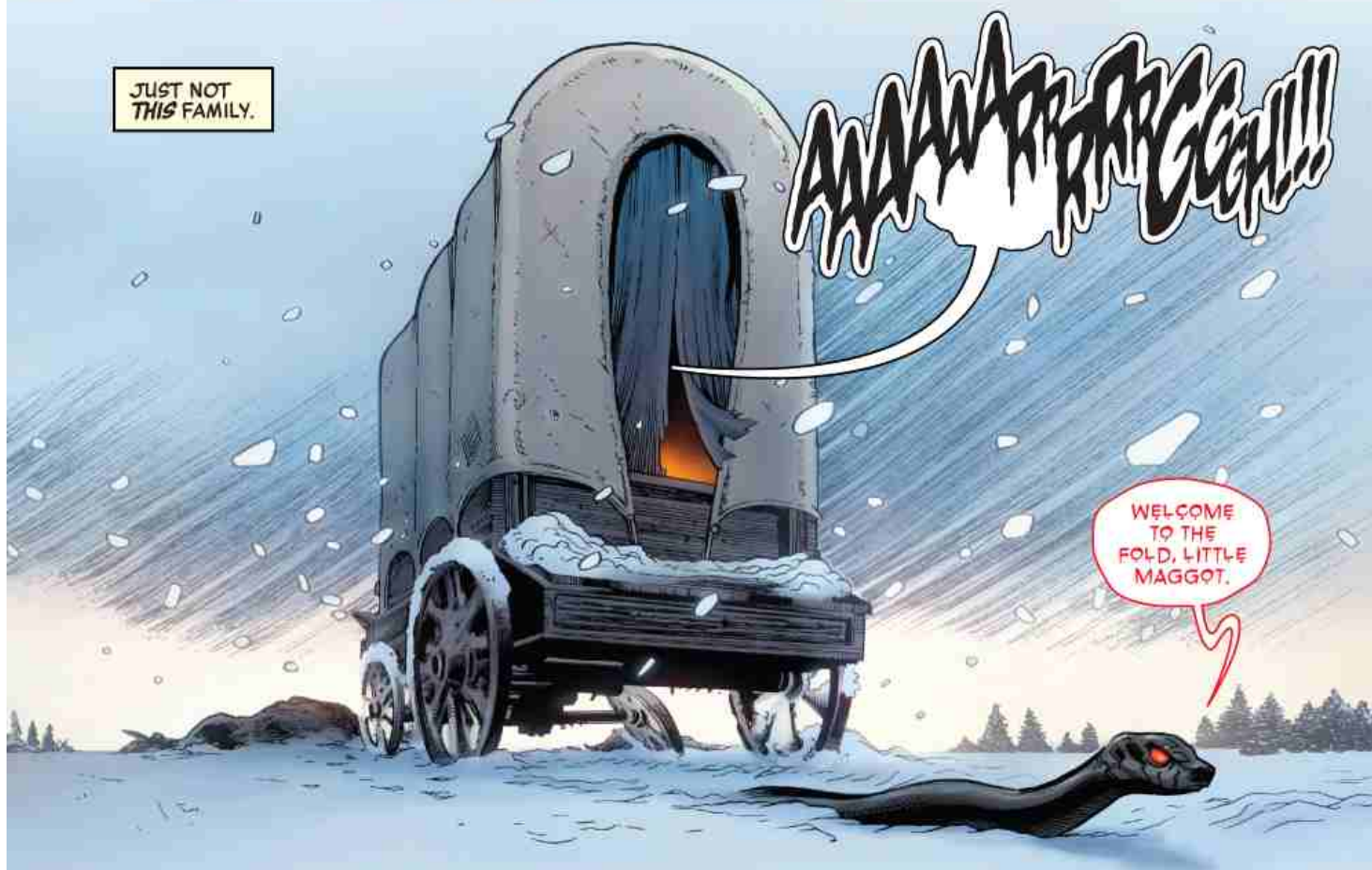
AMBROSE RANDOLPH
WINTHROP ATE
WELL THAT NIGHT.

AND WOULD LIVE
TO SEE HIS FAMILY
GROW STRONG.

JUST NOT
THIS FAMILY.

AAAAARRRRGGH!!!

WELCOME
TO THE
FOLD, LITTLE
MAGGOT.



NOW.
NEW YORK CITY.

LIKE MANY STORIES,
THIS ONE *ENDS*...WITH A
MAN AT A *CROSSROADS*.

JUST SO YOU
KNOW, IF IT WERE
UP TO MOST OF MY
TEAMMATES...

...YOU'D BE
HAVING THIS
CONVERSATION
FROM BEHIND BARS
IN A WAKANDAN
PRISON.

IF THAT'S
THE WAY YOU
WANNA GO, **PANTHER**,
YOU SHOULD'VE
BROUGHT **THOR**.

HE WAS
BUSY THROWING
YOUR *GOD* IN THE
DUNGEONS OF
ASGARD.

WELL, IF
CAPTAIN AMERICA
WANTS TO SIT BY THE
PHONE, WAITING FOR MY
APOLOGY, I SURE
HOPE HE'S GOT A
COMFORTABLE
CHAIR.

MY ONLY
REGRET IS THAT
KHONSHU WILL ALWAYS
BE KHONSHU. BUT I HAD
THE RIGHT IDEA. AND YOU
DAMN WELL *KNOW* IT,
T'CHALLA.

YOU *WEAKENED*
US, **MOON KNIGHT**--
AT A TIME WHEN WE CAN
LEAST AFFORD IT. WHEN
THE WORLD IS RIDDLED
WITH POWDER KEGS.

NAMOR, THE
VAMPIRES, RUSSIA?
THEY'RE ALL FIRECRACKERS
COMPARED TO THE
THERMONUCLEAR BOMB...
THAT IS **MEPHISTO**.

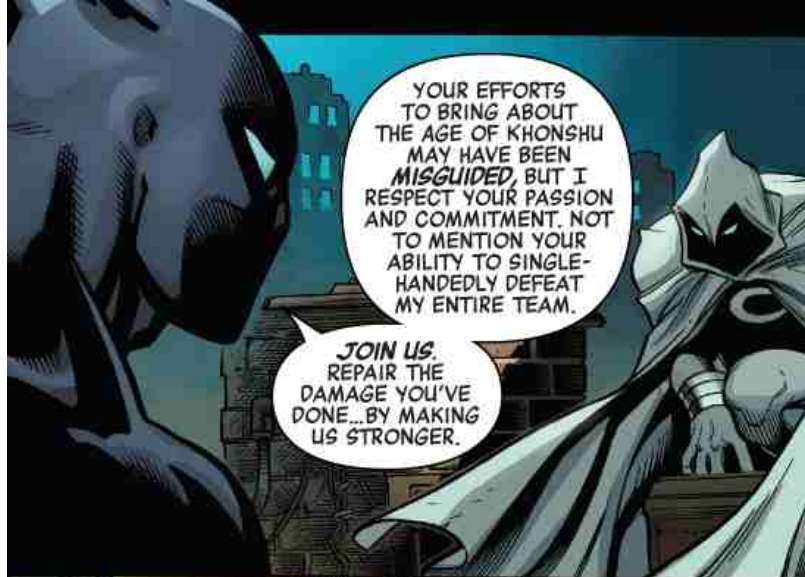
WHAT'S
YOUR PLAN TO
STOP HIM?

HE'S
DEAD. YOU
KILLED HIM.

YOU AND
I BOTH KNOW
THAT WON'T BE
ENOUGH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DID HAVE
SOMETHING ELSE
IN MIND.

HOW
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO BE AN
AVENGER?



YOUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT THE AGE OF KHONSHU MAY HAVE BEEN MISGUIDED, BUT I RESPECT YOUR PASSION AND COMMITMENT. NOT TO MENTION YOUR ABILITY TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY DEFEAT MY ENTIRE TEAM.

JOIN US. REPAIR THE DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE...BY MAKING US STRONGER.



AND WHATEVER MEPHISTO IS PLANNING, WE'LL STOP HIM TOGETHER.



HELL NO, WE WON'T.

I TRIED TO STOP HIM. I PUT MY BLOOD IN THE DIRT AND MY SOUL ON THE LINE. AND YOU CHOSE TO COME DOWN FROM YOUR FANCY MOUNTAIN TO STAND IN MY WAY.



SO I'M GOING BACK WHERE I BELONG, TO KEEP SAVING MY CRAPPY LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD THE ONLY WAY I KNOW HOW.

WITH MY OWN TWO KHONSHU-DAMNED FISTS.



YOU WANT MEPHISTO? HE'S ALL YOURS, PANTHER.

LET'S HOPE YOU'RE BETTER AT STOPPING HIM THAN YOU WERE ME.

NOT EVERY DEAL GETS MADE AT THE CROSSROADS.

IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU WERE WRONG TO MAKE THE OFFER.

SOME MEN JUST NEED A BIT LONGER TO BROOD AND RUMINATE BEFORE THEY CAN ACCEPT...

...HOW DESPERATE
THEY TRULY ARE.

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.

#@%\$!



#@%\$!
#@%\$!
#@%\$!

TONY. IS
THAT REALLY
HELPING?

IT'S
HELPING
ME!

HUNDREDS
OF THOUSANDS
OF WORDS IN THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE,
BUT NOTHING
ELSE SO COMPLETELY
ENCAPSULATES HOW
I'M FEELING WHEN
I LOOK AT THIS
#@%\$% RIGHT
HERE!



YEAH, SUPPOSE
I GOTTA AGREE WITH
IRON MAN HERE, CAP.
I MEAN...#@%\$%.

I DON'T
DISAGREE. I
JUST WANT TO
KNOW...WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN?

IT MEANS
WE'RE ALL
#@%\$%, CAPTAIN
AMERICA.



THE WHOLE
WORLD.

EVERY
WORLD.

THESE
ALTERNATE-REALITY
MEPHISTOS THAT WERE
TRYING TO ASSASSINATE
KHONSHU...THEY MEAN
IT'S ALREADY
STARTED.

WE'RE LOOKING
AT AN ARMY OF
HELL-SPAWNED INSURGENTS
IN A PANDIMENSIONAL WAR
WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
WAS BEING WAGED.

ONE
WE'RE ALREADY
LOSING.

AND IT'LL
ONLY GET WORSE.
THE MEPHISTOS WANT
TO NAPALM WHOLE
REALITIES. THEY WANT THE
STARS POSSESSED
BY DEVILS.

I'VE SEEN
IT. THEY'RE NOT
JUST ATTACKING US
HERE. THE WHOLE
TIMELINE IS INFESTED
WITH MAGGOTS. HIS
MAGGOTS.

SOMETIMES...
I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE...
THEY'RE FEEDING JUST
UNDERNEATH MY
SKIN.

I'M
OFFICIALLY
WORRIED ABOUT
YOU, TONY
STARK.

YOU *SHOULD* BE, CAROL.
YOU *SHOULD* BE WORRIED
ABOUT *EVERY* VERSION OF
ME THAT HAS EVER EXISTED.
AND OF *YOU* TOO. OF
ALL OF US.

SO WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT
TIME TRAVEL AND
ALTERNATE UNIVERSES
AND A SELF-PROCLAIMED
DEVIL WHO'S BEEN
PLOTING SOMETHING
GOING BACK TO THE
STONE AGE.

NO. SINCE
LONGER THAN
THAT, I THINK.

THEN
WHAT IS IT THAT
MEPHISTO WANTS?

WHAT
DOES THE
DEVIL EVER
WANT,
STEVE?

"FLECTERE
SI NEQUEO
SUPEROS,
ACHERONTA
MOVEBO." "IF I
CAN'T BEND THE
HEAVENS..."

"...THEN I'LL
RAISE SOME HELL."

AMBROSE RANDOLPH
WINTHROP SURVIVED
HIS CROSSROADS.

HE TRAVELED WEST ALONE,
FOUND NEW WIVES, Sired
MANY NEW CHILDREN,
FORGED MORE SUCCESS
THAN HE'D EVER IMAGINED.

HE DIED A GARISHLY
WEALTHY MAN.

BUT WITH A **DEBT** NO EARTHLY
WEALTH COULD EVER REPAY.

EVENING.
MY DEAR WIDOW
WINTHROP.

OH LORD,
YOU'RE HIM.
FROM THE CROSSROADS.
AMBROSE ALWAYS SAID
YOU'D COME. WHAT...
MY GOD, WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO WITH
HIS REMAINS?

HIS REMAINS?
OH NO, THOSE MEAN
NOTHING TO ME, MY
DEAR. I ALREADY HAVE **ALL**
I DESIRE OF THE LATE
MR. WINTHROP.

BUT HIS DEBT
REMAINS **UNPAID**.
SO FROM YOU, MA'AM, WHAT
I'LL NEED THIS DAY IS BUT A
TOKEN, A **REMINDER**, THAT DEAR
DEPARTED AMBROSE'S DEBT IS
NOW HIS **FAMILY'S**
DEBT.

I'LL SETTLE
FOR A **FINGER**,
WIDOW WINTHROP.
FROM EACH OF YOUR
CHILDREN. IF YOU
PLEASE.

THE VISITOR WOULD RETURN MANY TIMES
OVER THE YEARS. OVER THE DECADES AND
CENTURIES. FOR MORE TOKENS. FOR
OCCASIONAL FAVORS.

AND THE WINTHROPS
ALWAYS PAID.

IN FLESH. IN DARK DEEDS
IN THE NIGHT. IN THE
FIRSTBORN CHILDREN OF
EACH GENERATION.

AND NEVER DID THE
WINTHROPS HUNGER.
NEVER WERE THEY
COLD. FOR YEAR
AFTER YEAR THEY
THRIVED.

AND ALL IT COST
THEM WERE A FEW
FINGERS AND INFANTS.

A **FINE** DEAL, BY
ANY MEASURE.

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.

UM...I DON'T THINK THE **CRIB** IS GONNA DO YOU GUYS MUCH GOOD ANYMORE.

NOT WHEN YOUR BABY CAN FLY.

SHE'S THE **STARBRAND**. I IMAGINE SHE CAN DO A GOOD BIT MORE THAN FLY.



YOU DON'T SUPPOSE SHE KNOWS...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST STARBRAND, DOES SHE?

THAT I MAYBE KINDA SORTA...KILLED HIM?

THE STARBRAND HAS BEEN **REBORN** MANY TIMES, GOING BACK CENTURIES. AS HAVE **WE THREE**, MY FRIENDS.

OUR FATES ARE ALL INTERTWINED IN WAYS STILL YET TO BE REVEALED.

THIS IS THE **CAVEMAN AVENGERS** THING AGAIN, YEAH?

YOU KNOW I'VE READ EVERY CHAPTER OF THE **BOOK OF THE IRON FIST**. THERE'S NOTHING IN THERE ABOUT ANY **STONE AGE DEFENDER** OF K'UN-LUN.

BUT I'LL TELL YA...THERE'S SURE AN **AWFUL** LOT ABOUT THAT BIG, FIERY **SPACE BIRD** THAT JUST CAME BACK TO EARTH.



"ABOUT THE
PHOENIX. AND MOST
ALL OF IT'S BAD."

I'M NOT
EXACTLY AN
EXPERT ON
BIRDS...

BUT I HAVE
STABBED A WHOLE
LOTTA PEOPLE WHO
TURN INTO *BATS*. AND
IT SURE LOOKS TO ME
LIKE THAT THING IS
NESTING.

BIG FIREBIRD
FROM SPACE MAKING
A NEST ON EARTH. THAT
DEFINITELY CAN'T BE
GOOD, RIGHT?

DAMN,
I HATE
SPACE.

'TIS THE
PHOENIX. WHERE
IT FLIES, *WORLDS*
BURN.

WELL THEN,
THOR, I'M GUESSING
YOU KNOW WHAT MY
NEXT QUESTION IS
GONNA BE...

WHY
HAVEN'T
WE *KILLED*
IT YET?



...

YEAH, I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE GONNA SAY THAT.

PANTHER'S GOT THE HULK MEETING WITH WORLD LEADERS WHO WANNA BOMB THE HELL OUT OF THIS ISLAND, TRYING TO TALK 'EM OUT OF IT.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S NOT TO PROTECT THE SPACE BIRD.

IT'S TO KEEP FROM MAKING IT ANGRY.



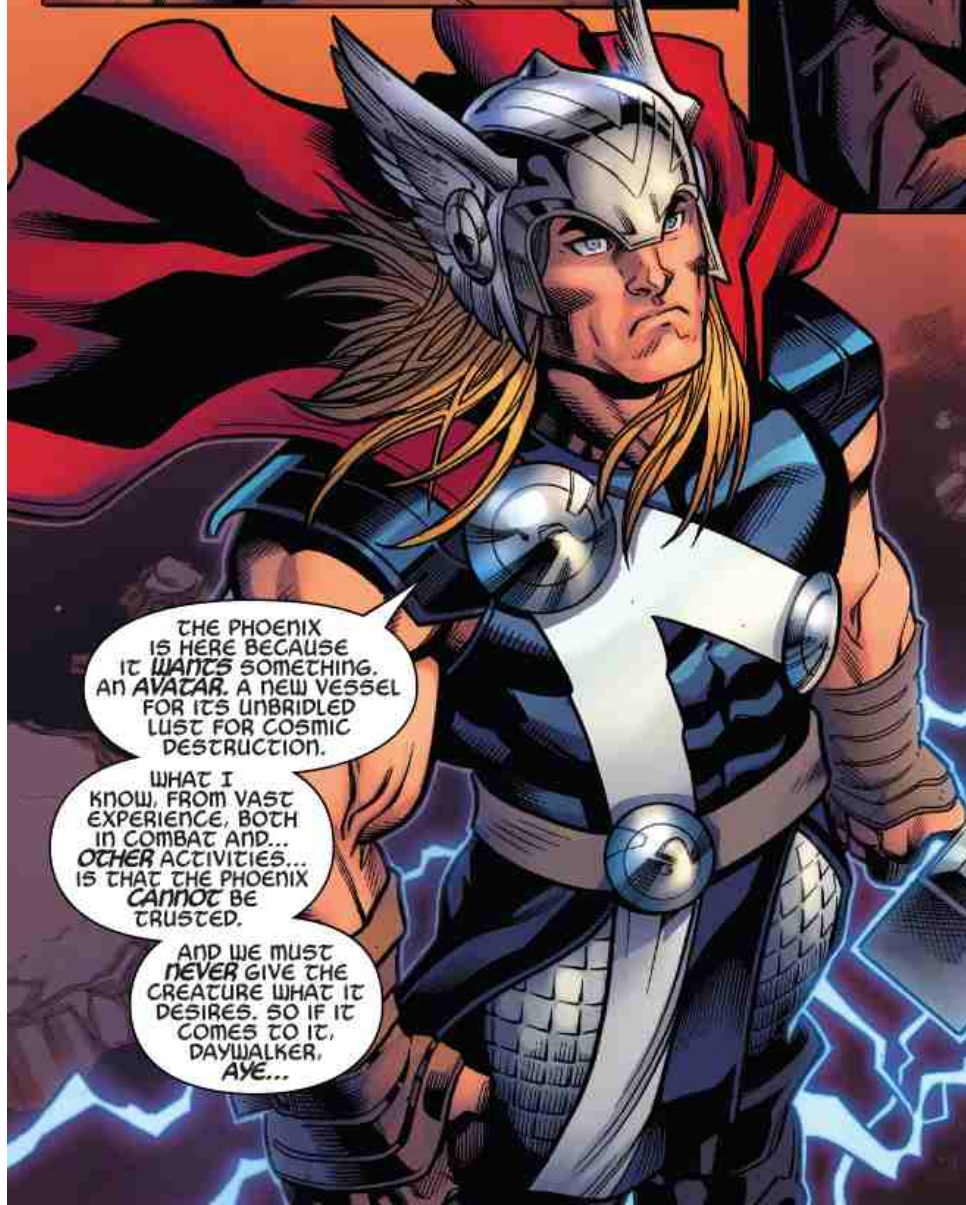
BUT IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING IN ALL MY YEARS OF CUTTING THE HEADS OFF THINGS THAT DON'T LIKE TO STAY DEAD, IT'S THAT EVERYTHING BLEEDS.



YOU JUST GOTTA KNOW WHERE TO CUT.

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, VIKING JESUS. SOMETHING YOU AIN'T SAYING. I CAN SMELL IT.

YOU GOT SOME KINDA CONNECTION TO THIS PHOENIX FORCE?



THE PHOENIX IS HERE BECAUSE IT WANTS SOMETHING. AN AVATAR. A NEW VESSEL FOR ITS UNBRIDLED LUST FOR COSMIC DESTRUCTION.

WHAT I KNOW, FROM VAST EXPERIENCE, BOTH IN COMBAT AND... OTHER ACTIVITIES... IS THAT THE PHOENIX CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

AND WE MUST NEVER GIVE THE CREATURE WHAT IT DESIRES. SO IF IT COMES TO IT, DAYWALKER, AYE...



...ALL-FATHER THOR KNOWS HOW TO MAKE THE PHOENIX BLEED. EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.

AND CHANCES ARE... IT WOULD.

FOUR BILLION YEARS AGO.

LIKE MANY STORIES, THIS ONE BEGINS BEFORE THE BEGINNING.

WITH A *PLANET* AT A CROSSROADS. WITH A DISEASED *CELESTIAL* THAT FELL FROM THE SKY.

INFECTING THE NEWLY FORMED EARTH.

PERVERTING ITS NATURAL EVOLUTION.

MAKING IT THE CESSPOOL OF MUTATION AND RADIOACTIVE GROTESQUERIES WE KNOW TODAY.

BY THE CHIMES OF HELL, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MOMENT IT WAS TO BEHOLD. AND BEHOLD IT, *MEPHISTO* DID.

AS A FLY LAYING THE FIRST OF A *BILLION* MAGGOTS.



THIS WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE MEPHISTO'S WORLD. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD. BUT THERE GREW A **PROBLEM**.

EARTH. I KNOW OF THIS PLACE. A MINOR MUDBALL. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY INTEREST **ME** THERE?

WHAT YOU MOST DESIRE.

IF THERE'S ONE THING THE EARTH WILL BE GOOD AT...IT'S **DEATH**.

EVEN FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS, EARTH'S INFECTION GAVE RISE TO FORCES THAT SOUGHT TO **PROTECT** IT, TO SHIELD IT FROM INFERNAL INFLUENCE.

THEY **MOCK** YOU. THESE **FALSE GODS**.

IF YOU WANT TO FORGE THIS WORLD IN YOUR OWN MAGNIFICENT IMAGE, THEY MUST BE THE FIRST TO FALL.

YES.

AND DESPITE MY EFFORTS OVER THE EONS TO SUBTLY SHIFT VARIOUS OBSTACLES BETWEEN ME AND THOSE MEDDLING FORCES, THEIR POWER ONLY GREW.

YOU CAN NEVER TRUST THEM. THEY WILL **NEVER** LEAVE YOU ALONE.

RRRRGGGGH!!!

IT GROWS STILL. AND I FEAR THEIR INTERFERENCE WILL CONTINUE FOR FAR TOO MANY YEARS TO COME.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE. REMEMBER YOUR **TRUE FACE**.

YES!

EARTH.
A MILLION YEARS AGO.

THE EARTH GREW
AVENGERS.

AND MEPHISTO HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THEIR
GREATEST ENEMY.

BEHOLD,
PRIMITIVES OF
EARTH! YOUR NEW
OVERLORD HAS
COME!

AND YOU
MAY CALL HIM
THANOS!

WHETHER
THEY KNEW
IT OR NOT.



**EARTH.
CENTURIES
AGO.**

SOWING CHAOS
FROM THE
SHADOWS.

FANNING THE FLAMES
OF PERPETUAL WAR,
EON AFTER EON.



BOW, YOU
WEAKLINGS,
BEFORE YOUR TRUE
SUPERIOR!

BOW BEFORE
APOCALYPSE!

EARTH.
A FEW YEARS AGO.

ONE MONSTER
AT A TIME.

RRRRGGH!

HULK
SMASH
AVENGERS!



EARTH'S ORBIT.
EONS FROM NOW.

AND THIS WAR HAS
MANY BATTLES
YET TO COME.

AS FAR AS THE
AVENGERS KNOW,
THEY ALWAYS
WIN MORE THAN
THEY LOSE.

AND WHILE MEPHISTO
MAY RISE FOR A TIME,
EVENTUALLY HE GOES
BACK TO HIS HELL.

YOU ARE
BUT DUST MITES
BEFORE DOOM THE
LIVING PLANET!



BUT THAT'S THE
THING ABOUT HELL.

NOW.

MR.
WINTHROP?

HELL IS
PATIENT.

GREAT-GREAT-
GRANDSON OF
AMBROSE RANDOLPH
WINTHROP?

YES, AND
WHO THE DEVIL
ARE YOU?

HOWARD
STARK.

HOWARD
STARK IS DEAD.

HELL'S FIRES KNOW
HOW TO BURN SLOWLY.

YES, WE ALL
HAVE OUR *DEBTS*,
DON'T WE? WHICH IS
WHY I'M HERE.

OH
GOD.

OLIVER,
WHO IS
IT?

EVERYONE,
GET BACK
INSIDE!

AND SOMETIMES YOU MAY
NOT EVEN REALIZE THAT
YOUR HOUSE IS BURNING...

UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT BUT ASH.

AAAARRRGH!!!

CONGRATULATIONS,
WINTHROPS...

YOU MAY
CONSIDER YOUR
DEBT OFFICIALLY
PAID IN
FULL.

WELL? WERE
THEY ENOUGH TO
POWER THE
RESURRECTION
SPELL? OR SHOULD I
GO TO THE NEXT
NAME IN YOUR
LEDGER?

HRGH.

THIS
WILL DO.

FOR
NOW.

COME,
STARK. WE
HAVE MUCH
WORK TO
DO.

YES,
MY LORD.

HAIL
MEPHISTO.

TO BE
CONTINUED...

HEROES AT HOME



"If you like your super-hero popcorn epics big, bold, and willing to be a little silly, this is without a doubt a book for you!" — Comic Watch

FROM THE DAWN OF TIME... **TO THE END OF THE WORLD?**

TRAPPED IN AN ICY CAVE MILLENNIA IN THE PAST, Tony Stark has lost most of his armor and a good chunk of his mind. And tonight when the sun goes down and the devil comes around again, will Iron Man lose what is left of his soul? Back in the present, Earth's mightiest villains unite against a common threat: the Avengers! But even as the team faces a villainous uprising like no other, they come under attack from one of their own! Mummies are rising from their graves. Secret armies march by moonlight from K'un-Lun to Wakanda to Greenwich Village. A dark god invades Asgard. And the Moon Knight is unleashed as never before! So begins the Age of Khonshu. So fall the Avengers.



COLLECTING **AVENGERS (2018) #31-38** — BY JASON AARON, ED McGUINNESS, FRANCESCO MANNA, JAVIER GARRÓN, GERARDO ZAFFINO, GERALDO BORGES, SZYMON KUDRANSKI, JAN BAZALDUA, ROBERT GILL, MATTIA DE IULIS, MARK MORALES, JASON KEITH AND RACHELLE ROSENBERG.

MARVEL

